

A Wayside Shrine in Northern Moab: Excavations in the Wadi Ath-Thamad

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P. M. Michele

Daviau, Margreet L. Steiner

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A WAYSIDE SHRINE IN NORTHERN MOAB

Excavations in the Wadi ath-Thamad

Edited by P. M. Michèle Daviau & Margreet L. Steiner



A WAYSIDE SHRINE IN NORTHERN MOAB:
EXCAVATIONS IN WADI ATH-THAMAD

A WAYSIDE SHRINE IN NORTHERN MOAB: EXCAVATIONS IN WADI ATH-THAMAD

P. M. MICHÈLE DAVIAU

with contributions by

Gabrielle Cole, Carlos E. Cordova, Christopher M. Foley, Jan Gunneweg
and Marta Balla, Robert M. Kerr, David Lipovitch, Kenneth J. McNamara,
David S. Reese and Margreet L. Steiner

WADI ATH-THAMAD PROJECT I

Edited by

P. M. MICHÈLE DAVIAU and MARGREET L. STEINER

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Front cover: Photos of assorted artefacts from the site courtesy of
Dr B. A. Haberstroh, M.D.

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Preface

The excavations at Ḥorvat Qitmit, Kuntilet ʿAjrud, and ʿEn Ḥaṣeva opened a new window on the complexity of Iron Age society and religion in southern Palestine, a region where both Judeans and Edomites lived. At the same time, it is not clear whether the religious practices attested at these southern sites were a reflection of localized customs or were common rituals for Judean and Edomite communities. What is clear is that the evidence from archaeological excavations expands our understanding of religious beliefs and cultic activities, some of which are not reflected in either the Biblical text or other contemporary textual sources. At present, we do not know the extent of these practices, whether they were also known in other areas of the region, especially in the small kingdoms of Transjordan, such as the heartland of Edom itself or, to the north, in Moab and Ammon.

The discovery of an isolated shrine site in northern Moab which contained Iron Age figurines and statues may contribute to our understanding of the distribution of wayside shrines and their cultic practices, if not of the deities known to the worshipers. The finds at Wadi ath-Thamad Site WT-13 (henceforth, WT-13) are numerous and remain a challenge to excavators and interpreters alike. In order to do justice to this discovery, several scholars contributed to the excavation, analysis, and publication of this site and its remains.

A salvage excavation was undertaken in 1997 by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project thanks to the encouragement of Dr. Ghazi

Bisheh, then Director General of Antiquities, and with the support of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. Housing for the team during the first three seasons was at ACOR in Amman, where we gratefully received the enthusiastic support of the Director, Dr. Pierre Bikai, and of the staff. In 1999, Mrs. Nelly Lama facilitated arrangements with Lyly's Pension Hotel in Madaba, where the team lived during the 1999, 2001 and 2003 seasons. Partial funding was provided by a grant from ASOR's Committee on Archaeological Policy Grants sub-committee, as well as by a Short Term grant from Wilfrid Laurier University, funded in part by the WLU Research Budget and in part by the SSHRC General Research Grant awarded to WLU. Two excavation seasons (2001, 2003) and the subsequent study of the artefacts, samples and figurines were funded by a three year Standard Research Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Team members (Pl. A) and scholars whose interest in this site made a significant contribution to our research include Romeo Levesque, who set up the initial grid of the site and excavated with care and enthusiasm in the initial season (1997); Carlos Cordova, who studied the geomorphology of the wadi system; Jan Gunneweg, whose generous initiative resulted in INAA processing of fragments of WT-13 figurines, statues and pottery at the Institute of Nuclear Techniques, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in order to compare their ceramic chemistry with that of statues from Ḥorvat Qitmit and En Ḥaṣeva; Annlee Dolan, who undertook an initial study of WT-13 in the context of Moabite religion (unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, 2007); Margreet Steiner who studied the diagnostic sherds and contributed to an analysis of the fabric composition, undertaken by Loe Jacobs at the Laboratory for Ceramic Studies of Leiden University; David Reese, who studied the shells and Kenneth McNamara who prepared a report on fossil sea urchins; David Lipovitch who analyzed the faunal remains; Robert M. Kerr, who interpreted a Thamudic inscription; and B. Conant and Jason

Venkiteswaran, geologists at Wilfrid Laurier University who identified exotic stone samples. Additional data, detailed locus information, databases and illustrations are available at <https://downloads.wlu.ca/WadiThamad>.

Special thanks are due to those students and volunteers who washed and sorted thousands of ceramic sherds, especially Michael Berry, Christina Craig-Paul (now, Gohm), Melodee Degenais, Joyce Palmer, and Shannon Rozon; to Chelsea Hyde and Neil Sandison, co-op students, and Melissa Pritchard Beals, who entered details into the database; to Tiffany Mertsis, a Wilfrid Laurier work study student who drew diagnostic sherds previously sent to Leiden for analysis; to Helen Himmelman who carefully sorted, drew and entered into the database hundreds of diagnostic sherds curated at Wilfrid Laurier University; and to Marianne Kraft who identified and entered Munsell colour codes and proofread the text, along with Dr Laird Christie; to those who drew figurines and objects, namely Victor Bush, Benjamin Holthof, Tracy Scott, Robert Vingerhoets, Julie Witmer, and a special thanks to Heidi Wilson, who drew the statues; to the pottery and object registrars and to the photographers, Col. Robert Mittelstaedt and Dr. Bernard A. Haberstroh, M.D., who took photographs of objects and of the surrounding area with the survey team. Student square supervisors and volunteers excavated the severely disturbed remains with patience and care, yielding a harvest of finds from several phases of use, under the direction of Field Supervisor Laura Foley, who assisted the Director at WT-13. Special thanks also to Tracy Scott who participated in the formulation of the typology and classification of small fragments of figurines and statues; to Paul Bailey and Heidi Wilson, who scanned the artefact drawings; and to B. A. Haberstroh and E. Kate Johnston, who scanned the photographs and prepared the field images database for the WT-13 archive. For the good spirits and dedication of all of these workers and many more, the project director is extremely grateful.

This book is dedicated to J. Andrew Dearman (Fuller

Theological Seminary), Wadi ath-Thamad Regional Survey director (1996, 1997) who, along with Romel Ghrayib, located Site WT-13 and to Romeo Levesque, Tempe, AZ, whose talent as an excavator and engineer and whose financial support contributed to our success.

Team members (1996–2003)

Project Director and Chief Archaeologist

P. M. Michèle Daviau, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON
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Epigrapher

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Geomorphologist

Carlos E. Cordova, Oklahoma State University, USA

Land Surveyor

Robert Force, Oakville, ON (2001)

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Celeste Barlow (1996, 1997), Wendy Chan (1998), Annlee Dolan
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Laurie Cowell (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003), Heidi Wilson (1998)

Object Registrar

Walter McCall (1996, 1997), Darren Smith (1998), Nicholas

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Alina Horedja, Saskatoon, SK
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Janet Joseph, Saskatoon, SK
(1998)
Amanda Maskell, Saskatoon, SK
(2001)
Sally McGary, Huntsville, ON
(2001)
Michelle St. Denis, Saskatoon, SK
(1998)
Heidi Wilson, Lake Beach, ON
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I. Daviau (1999, 2001)
I. Foley and Annlee Dolan (2003)

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(1998) Nas Calvesbert, Paris, ON
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Part-time Team Member

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1997

Mr. Adeeb Abu Shmeis and Rommel Ghrayib

1998

Mr. Yazid Elayan

1999

Ms Hanadi Al-Taher

2001

Mr. Husam Atallah Hijazeen

2003

Ms. Reem Shqour

Note

* all team members are Canadian residents, unless otherwise noted.



a



b

Plate A. a) Team members of the 1997 season (*); b) team members of the final 2003 season at WT-13

Part 1

The site and its excavation

Introduction and geographical setting

P. M. Michèle Daviau with an excursus by Carlos E. Cordova

During the first season of regional survey in 1996, the Wadi ath-Thamad Survey team discovered site WT-13, south of the heavily-built town of al-Rumayl (WT-18; [Fig. 1.1](#)). Attention was drawn to this isolated hill in central Jordan because of its location, overlooking the Wadi Wala (the continuation of the Wadi ath-Thamad) and the discovery on its surface of two ceramic female figurines by Rommel Ghayib (Department of Antiquities representative); these were accompanied by fragments from ceramic statues, two beads and a scarab. Along with these artefacts, the team collected 370 ceramic sherds which provided evidence for an Iron Age date.¹ In view of the unusual nature of the finds and the date of the ceramic remains, some of which appear to be contemporary with the Iron Age pottery from Khirbat al-Mudayna on the Wadi ath-Thamad (WT-1, henceforth, Mudayna Thamad),² WT-13 was deemed worthy of further study.

The objectives of excavation were to determine the exact character of the site, its date and its relationship to the nearby site

of al-Rumayl, the cultural sphere reflected in the material culture, and the sequence of phases of construction and repair. Given its small size, it was assumed to be a specialized site, possibly associated with cultic activity.

The identification of a cultic site is always problematic, especially when there are no known parallels within the same cultural sphere and no relevant textual evidence (Renfrew 1985:3; Webb 1999:11). Such was the case with the discovery of a bronze bull figurine, and the subsequent excavation and publication of the “temenos” in the hill country of Samaria where it was apparently found (Mazar 1982:27, n. 2). The interpretation of this walled enclosure as an open air cult site generated considerable scholarly discussion (Coogan 1987; Mazar 1988; Wenning and Zenger 1986; Zevit 2001:178–180). At the same time, the “Bull Site” yielded only a small amount of pottery and a handful of unusual artefacts, one fragment resembling a ceramic plaque or architectural model (Mazar 1982: fig. 10). Surprisingly, no other explicitly cultic objects were reported; instead the remaining finds (16 diagnostic pot sherds, 24 lithic tools, and one piece of folded bronze (Mazar 1982: figs. 9, 11, 13) appear to be domestic or craft-related in nature. In spite of this small assemblage and the fact that evidence for repeated cultic performance is lacking, there are few who challenge the cultic identification of the site.³

The situation at certain town sites is also problematic; for example, the presence of fenestrated stands at Dhībân and 𐤀𐤁𐤏 strongly suggests cultic activity, especially when associated with female figurines. However, the current case for a recognizable communal cult centre at Dhībân is very tenuous, because it consists only of a pair of stone walls entering a balk on the east side of a monumental building (Morton 1989:245).⁴ This hardly constitutes the material correlates for a temple and Routledge (2004:168–173) has now convincingly demonstrated that the building in Area L was a palace. In contrast, Room 65 at 𐤀𐤁𐤏 was not originally identified as a shrine by its excavator, although the

benches along two walls are strong architectural evidence that this room may have been a cultic area (Zevit 2001:153–156). This interpretation is supported by the presence of a cultic stand and several chalices, items usually associated with religious activities (compare Lachish Room 49; Aharoni 1975: fig. 6). However, the small number of finds at all of these sites is in contrast to sites found more recently in the Negev and Arabah, such as Ḥorvat Qiṭmit (Beit Arieḥ 1995) and ʿEn Ḥaṣeva (Cohen and Yisraeli 1995), where a large number of ceramic figurines, statues, cultic stands, lamps, specialized ceramic vessels and artefacts constitutes the paraphernalia of repeated cultic activity at these sites.⁵

To date, similar Iron Age sites with large numbers of cultic items have not been found in Ammonite territory on the Transjordanian plateau. Prior to the rise of the Ammonite kingdom, there were two Late Bronze Age sites with high status artefacts, the ʿAmman Airport “temple” (Hankey 1974a; 1974b), and the partially excavated building at Umm ad-Dananiṛ (McGovern 1989:35). In each case, these were heavily-walled structures with only limited outdoor activity areas. In view of their artefact assemblages, these sites may not have been temples or shrines in the ordinary sense, but served instead a special purpose (Herr 1983:23–28). At Tall al-ʿUmayri, south of ʿAmman (Bramlett 2008) and in the Jordan Valley at Tall Dayr ʿAlla (Franken 1992) and Pella (Bourke 2012; Ward 2014), there were Late Bronze Age temples which did serve as major religious centres in their respective settlements. These impressive temple buildings yielded rich cultic assemblages. Dating to late Iron Age I, an open court building located outside of Tall al-Mazar proper has also been identified as a sanctuary (Yassine 1984), although the number of figurines and explicitly cultic material recovered from this site is limited (see [Chapter 15](#)).

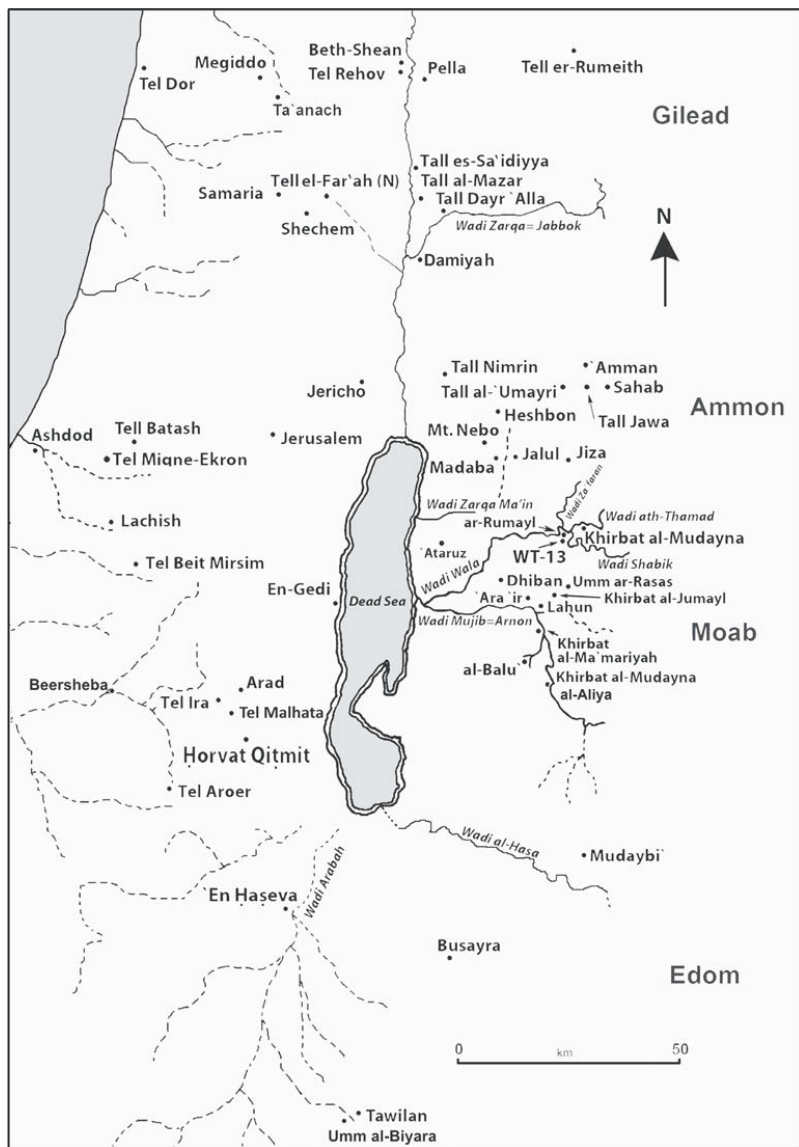


Figure 1.1. Map of Iron Age Palestine and Transjordan (prepared by C. Ramsoomair)

The paucity of figurines from Transjordan dating to the early Iron Age is not surprising. Only a handful of town sites were recently excavated with occupation which dates to Iron Age I;

most notably, Tall al-ʿUmayri (Clark 1996) and Tall Jawa in Ammon (Daviau 2003); Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya (Routledge 2000; 2004); Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Muʿarradja (Olávarri 1983), ʿAraʿir (Olávarri 1965) and Khirbat al-Lahun (Homès-Fredericq 1997) in central Moab, with few, if any, ceramic figurines assigned to Iron I contexts.⁶ The same phenomenon, an apparent decline in coroplastic art, was seen on Cyprus during the same period. It was only in early Iron II, with the increasing contact between Cyprus and Phoenicia, that figurine production increased significantly on the island with the introduction of Levantine cultic drama and myths (Karageorghis 1991:13). This same Phoenician influence may help to explain the rich repertoire that developed concurrently in the small kingdoms of Transjordan (see Stern 2003).

Prior to excavation at Site WT-13, Ammonite and Moabite figurines known from various contexts in settlement sites were most often associated with the domestic cult (Dabrowski 1997; Daviau 1996: fig. 4:5; Daviau and Dion 1994: fig. 1; Daviau 2014a) or with funerary customs (Saller 1966). Other cultic assemblages are without provenience and come from private collections. A case in point is an assemblage of artefacts in the Museum of Art and Archaeology (University of Missouri-Columbia) published by Weinberg (1978) which includes female figurines, a model shrine, perforated cups, animal figurines and lamps. There was no known provenience for these artefacts except Weinberg's suggestion that they originated in the area of Mount Nebo. Although several Iron Age tombs have been excavated at Mount Nebo and in Madaba itself (Dornemann 1983:31–35, 48–49), such an artefact group is usually associated with town sites (Clark, Herr and Trenchard 2000), possibly with domestic cult activity areas (Holladay 1987:276; table 3; Daviau 2001b; 2014a), or with cultic centres, rather than with graves. To date, only two town sites with temples where such an intact assemblage could have been recovered have been excavated among the known sites

with Iron Age occupation on the Moabite plateau, Mudayna Thamad (Daviau and Steiner 2000) and ʿAtarus (Ji 2012; Daviau 2012). Both of these sites are likely candidates for such an unprovenienced assemblage, although Mudayna Thamad was undisturbed prior to excavation and most of its finds were broken during its final destruction, while relatively well preserved finds have been recovered from ʿAtarus. Although the discovery of dozens of broken figurines, ceramic statues, and tripod cups in the shallow deposition layers at WT-13 reflects the nature of this small site, it does not offer a likely find spot for the nearly intact assemblage studied by Weinberg.⁷

Chronological setting

The rise of identifiable polities in Transjordan is dated to the Iron Age II, with little or no continuity with earlier Iron Age I sites in some regions, such as in Moab, both north and south of the Wadi Mujib. Various attempts to assign dates to Iron Age horizons in Jordan are based on the better known chronological links between occupation at *tall* sites in Palestine and Phoenicia and evidence for influence from Egypt and Mesopotamia. The beginning of the 20th dynasty (Egypt) and the disruptive movements of “Sea Peoples” throughout the Levant marks the transition from Late Bronze to Iron Age I in Cisjordan and the northern Levant. For central Jordan, both the beginning and the end of Iron I does not appear to be related to broader historical events, with Iron II occupation being recognized primarily in the difference in material culture, which itself varies considerably between Gilead, Ammon, Moab and Edom. For the purpose of his temple study, Mierse (2012:60) adopted the generally accepted Iron I sequence utilized by Bloch-Smith and Nakhai (1999) and the sequence for Iron II delineated by Herr (1997), although the beginning of Iron IIA in Moab is not fixed by any securely dated series of events or by C14 dates.

For WT-13, the operating assumption is that the principal phases date to late Iron Age I-IIA and to Iron IIB. Comparison with

pottery and objects from surrounding sites is also plagued with the same chronological uncertainty, although a few clear links for each of the phases with Iron Age II occupation at Mudayna Thamad can be demonstrated. So too, imported pottery and objects make an earlier and later date unlikely ([Chapters 3, 5–7](#); see also Daviau and Klassen 2014).

The site in its geographical setting

The site of WT-13 is located on a rounded hilltop just south of a large bend in the Wadi ath-Thamad/Wadi Rumayl ([Fig. 1.2](#)).⁸ The wadi then turns south and winds around the west side of the hill through a valley with steep slopes falling 284 m to the valley bottom.⁹ South of WT-13, the valley flattens out, giving a broad view of the hills to the west and south. On the east and north, the site is separated by a shallow gully from the fortified settlement of al-Rumayl (WT-18; [Chapter 14](#)) and the field of cisterns and graves (WT-82–WT-86) to its south. WT-13 is thus located on an isolated promontory in view of a major Iron Age settlement, which itself watches over a natural ford on Wadi Rumayl to the north and over the farm lands along the Wadi ath-Thamad to the east.

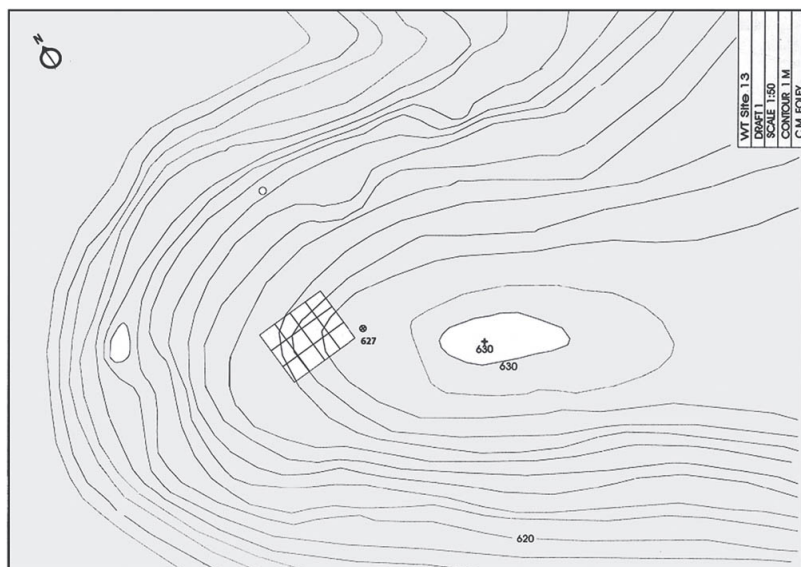


Figure 1.2. Topographic map of WT-13 with working grid (C. M. Foley)

In 1996, the site of al-Rumayl South,¹⁰ now MEGA Jordan Site 6540, was thought to be WT-13. However, WT-13 is now identified as a separate site, number 2999 in the MEGA Jordan database. Coordinates established by the Wadi ath-Thamad Survey in 2001 are UTME 772771, UTMN 3496672-Zone 36. WT-13 is located 295 m south¹¹ of the centre of the better known site of Khirbat al-Rumayl,¹² a large Iron Age fortress and town site on the south side of Wadi Rumayl.¹³ From al-Rumayl, WT-13 is at a bearing of 190 degrees and is west of the modern paved road which runs from al-Rumayl to Umm al-Rasas. On the north, south, and west sides of WT-13, there is evidence of mechanical grading (tractor or bulldozer) that resulted from road work around the hill, and from terracing to prevent erosion of the hillside. Cultivated areas are located on the saddle of the hill to the east, as well as in the gully separating WT-13 and the modern road. Another extensive area of cultivated fields is seen in the wadi bed to the southwest.¹⁴

Looking north from the top of WT-13, one can see the heights

south of Madaba and, to the south, the beginning of the Dhībân plateau. At present, the modern road running between al-Rumayl and WT-13 begins at Nitl in the north and winds its way to Umm al-Rasas in the southeast. Whether this is the trajectory of an ancient road cannot now be determined, although the position of al-Rumayl is prominent in the landscape. The location of WT-13 was chosen with care, being the westernmost point on the heights, before the wadi bends to the west toward the Early Bronze Age site of Khirbat Iskandar. On this hilltop, the site could serve as a landmark or beacon for travellers coming from the south, although it is blocked from view on the north by the hill of al-Rumayl. The importance of such a setting for sacred space has been recognized by various scholars (Alcock and Osborne 1994:23; Steinsapir 1999:182), even though we may not be able to recover evidence for the natural surroundings in antiquity or appreciate all the implications of that landscape for the ancient inhabitants (see [Chapter 14](#)).

Excursus: Geography of the Wadi ath-Thamad system

Carlos E. Cordova

The Wadi ath-Thamad originates in the Jordanian plateau a few kilometers east of the Desert Highway which runs from Amman to Aqaba. The wadi enters the Thamad Graben and meanders along a relatively shallow valley, where at least three alluvial terraces were formed. The Thamad Terrace is the oldest, containing Epipaleolithic and Early Neolithic occupations. The Tur al-Abyad Terrace contains Chalcolithic material, and the youngest terrace, named “Historic”, contains Nabataean and Roman pottery fragments (Cordova 2000).¹⁵

At the confluence with Wadi Zafaran, Wadi ath-Thamad becomes Wadi al-Rumayl. From this point on, the wadi runs at the foot of the Rumayl escarpment, formed by the Rumayl Fault. It is

on the edge of this escarpment that Khirbat al-Rumayl is located, occupying a vantage point for the entire valley to the north and east. Wadi Zafaran merges into Wadi al-Rumayl on a wide flood plain at about 270 m to the north northwest (ca. 340 m E) of al-Rumayl. From this point the wadi turns south and enters a deep canyon (ca. 200 m) bisecting the Dhibân Plateau. South of WT-13, the wadi turns west, from which point it is known as Wadi al-Wala.¹⁶

The streams of these wadis have no permanent flow. Major fluvial activity occurs during the winter and early spring, when rains are relatively frequent. For the rest of the year, water remains in pools, often used by local Bedouin to provide water to sheep and goats and for irrigation using pumps.

Site WT-13 is located on the eastern or left side of the wadi, close to the edge of the plateau. The site is located on the al-Hisa Phosphorite formation of Cretaceous age. This formation presents strata of phosphate, limestone and other marine sediments poor in chert (Al-Hunjul 1995). Intense caving has occurred in the soft strata of al-Hisa Phosphorite, creating small caves and natural cavities, often used for the storage of food and water. This formation is underlain by the Amman Silicified Limestone, which is more resistant to erosion and provides more sources of chert.

Biogeographically, the site is located on the Irano-Turanian Steppe, which in this part of the country is characterized by anabasis (*Anabasis articulata*), spiny saltwort (*Noaea mucronata*), wormwood (*Artemisia herba-alba*), Syrian rue (*Peganum harmala*), and oleander (*Nerium oleander*). All these are mostly antipastoral plants, meaning they are unpalatable or poisonous to sheep and goats. The impact of pastoralism on the slopes of the wadi has been tremendous, resulting in intense erosion and frequent landslides. In some cases, landslides are associated with active faulting.

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Exploration history

The site of WT-13 does not appear to have been noticed by the explorers of the late 19th and early 20th century, such as Tristram, who rode along the Wadi ath-Thamad in 1873, or by Brünnow and von Domaszewski (1904–5). These explorers, along with Musil who followed them (1907), documented a large number of sites between Madaba and Qaşal, including Mudayna Thamad. Nevertheless, it was only in 1996 that WT-13 was located by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project Regional Survey under the direction of J. Andrew Dearman (Fig. 1.3a).¹⁷ Exploration in the immediate vicinity of al-Rumayl, and the documentation of its 42 cisterns and caves, led the team to the west side of the road and to a hill overlooking Wadi Rumayl. At the time, WT-13 appeared as an area of disturbed soil with two fallen stone monoliths ($0.40 \times 0.40 \times 1.40$ m in size), collapsed wall stones, and surface vegetation. Extending along the oblong pile of ruined walls to the southeast, was a 7.00 m long wall line (one row of stones wide), possibly indicating the remains of an enclosure or courtyard. It was in the midst of the collapsed debris that pottery, figurines and artefacts were first recovered (Figs. 1.4, 1.5). The initial

assessment of the pottery was that it dated to the Iron II and late Iron II periods, well represented in the carinated bowls (Fig. 1.4:1–3), Moabite-style square rim cooking pots (Fig. 1.4:19), and the rib-sided ceramic mortar bowl (Fig. 1.5:15). A unique jug rim (Fig. 1.5:6) with a formal parallel in a red slipped sherd from the 10th–9th century Stratum V at Tel Malḥata (Freud 2015: fig. 4.174:10) was also an indicator of the date of the site. Another feature, situated on the northeast slope of the hill, is a bell-shaped cistern capable of serving as a source of water for activities carried out on the top of the hill (Chapter 14). Additional collapsed stone features were also noticed during the first two seasons of survey (1996, 1997), some of which may be natural depressions in the bedrock.

Figure 1.4. Unstratified Survey pottery

1. (A10/101.20). Carinated Bowl; D 13.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.
2. (A10/101.21). Carinated Bowl; D 15.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
3. (A10/100.30). Carinated Bowl; D 25.0 cm; Leiden.¹⁸
4. (A10/15.2). Carinated Bowl; D 14.0 cm; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) fabric and exterior.
5. (13R/16.1). Inverted rim bowl; D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
6. (A10/16.1). Inverted rim; D 23.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
7. (13R/16.4). Hemispherical; D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) exterior.
8. (A10/16.2). Hemispherical; D 26.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.
9. (13R/46.12). Incurving rim; D 21.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) throughout.

10. (A10/100.34). Incurving rim; D 32.0 cm; Leiden
11. (13R/30.8). Cup; D 13.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) throughout.
12. (A10/12.3). Cup; D 11.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
13. (A10/3.1). Krater; D 28.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
14. (13R/71.20). Krater; D *ca.* 22.0 cm; Leiden.
15. (13R/38.9). Krater; D 29.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) exterior.
16. (13R/46.20). Cooking pot; D 16.0 cm; red (2.5YR 4/6) fabric and exterior.
17. (13R/18.3). Cooking pot; D 17.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric throughout.
18. (A10/32.7). Cooking pot; D 13.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric, pale red (10R 6/4) exterior
19. (13R/30.13). Cooking pot; D 15.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.
20. (13R/30.14). Cooking pot; D 26.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/3) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.

Figure 1.5. Unstratified Survey pottery and figurines

1. (A10/100.33). Storejar; D 9.0 cm; Leiden.
2. (13R/15.4). Storejar; D 8.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (5YR 7/3) exterior.
3. (13R/15.10). Storejar; D 10.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
4. (13R/46.13). Jar/Jug; D 9.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.
5. (13R/15.7). Jug; D 8.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3–8/2) fabric and exterior.
6. (13R/15.3). Jug; D 8.0 cm; Leiden.
7. (A10/.100.31). Jug; D 9.5 cm; Leiden.
8. (A10/2.4). Jug; D 9.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3)

fabric and exterior.

9. (13R/15.16). Lamp; D 8.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior, mottled.

10. (13R/16.6). Base; D 5.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

11. (13R/18.15). Base; D 14.5 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.

12. (A10/100.6). Base; D *ca.* 4.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.

13. (A10/100.2). Base; D 6.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

14. (A10/1.1). Basin; D 36.0 cm; light gray (5Y 7/2) fabric and exterior.

15. (13R/15.11). Mortar; D 25.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

16. (13R/30.15). Painted body sherd; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) paint.

17. (13R/18.7). Painted body sherd; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) exterior, red (2.5YR 5/6) paint.

18. (13R/16.5). Painted body sherd; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior, red (2.5YR 5/6) paint.

19. (13R/16.2). Painted body sherd; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior, dark gray (10YR 4/1) and red (2.5YR 4/8) paint.

20. WT 15. Naked female with disc ([Chapter 4](#)).

21. WT 21. Naked female with disc ([Chapter 4](#)).

Excavation history

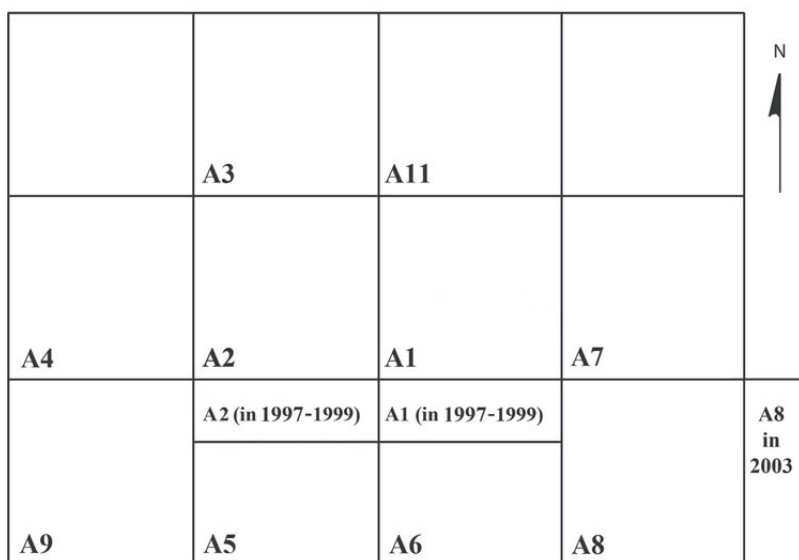
Visited and disturbed by local folk following our initial discovery, WT-13 was subsequently excavated in an intensive salvage excavation in 1997 (June 2–12).¹⁹ It was soon evident that human

activity at the site extended over an area of at least 14.00×16.00 m. The heaviest concentration consisted of a ring of piled up boulders and loose soil which formed a rough oval that partially covered two parallel walls visible at ground level. Disturbed areas provided evidence that modern looters had reached bedrock at several places within the oval, although they did not expose it completely.

During the first excavation season (1997), two squares (A1, A2), each 6.00×6.00 m and aligned north-south, were opened to expose the features in the centre of the site. Due to the presence of wall lines along the north and south balks, these two squares were extended to 8.00 m north-south and excavation resumed in these two squares in 1999 (Fig. 1.3b). The enlarged area included most of the disturbed remains between the two visible walls (W1001, W1002) which ran east-west along the north and south sides of the concentration of collapsed boulders and topsoil. Documentation also continued around the site itself, locating several cisterns,²⁰ areas of exposed bedrock, and recent bulldozer activity.



a



 5 m

b

Figure 1.3. a) View of collapsed wall stones prior to excavation, looking west; b) Working grid showing distribution of squares (redrawn by P. M. M. Daviau, 2014)

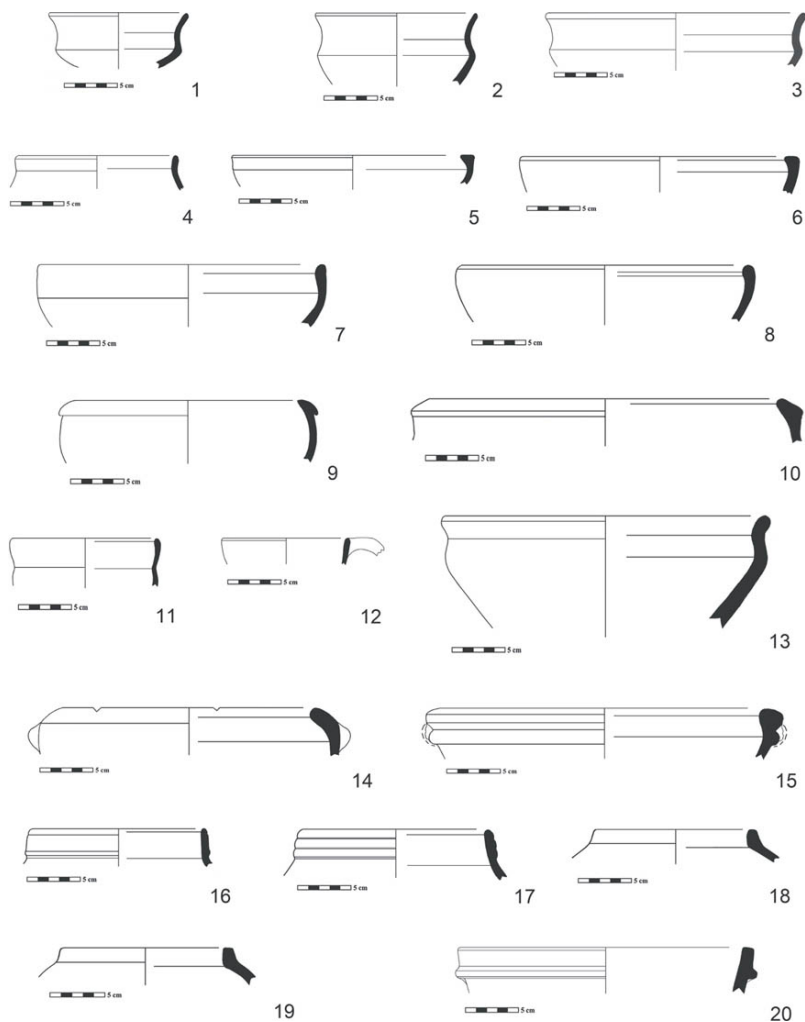


Figure 1.4. Unstratified survey pottery: 1–10) bowls; 11–12) cups; 13–15) kraters; 16–20) cooking pots

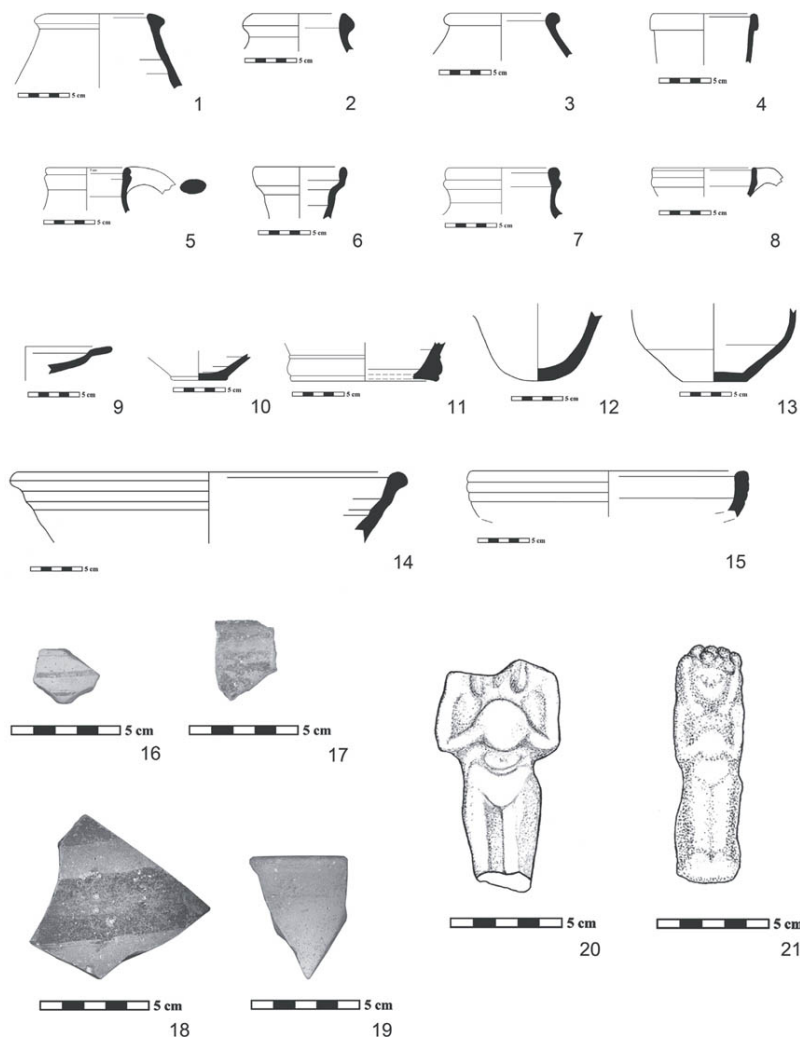


Figure 1.5. Unstratified survey pottery and objects: 1–3) jars; 4–7) jugs; 8) juglet; 9) lamp; 10–13) base forms; 14) basin; 15) ceramic mortar; 16–19) painted sherds; 20–21) figurines

In 1998, members of the Wadi ath-Thamad Project excavating at Mudayna Thamad opened two new half squares (3.00 × 6.00 m in size), A3 to the north and A5 to the south of Square A2. Bedrock was soon reached in A3, indicating that the excavations in 1997 had come close to the northern edge of the original

deposition. In A5, broken vessels were strewn throughout the uppermost soil layers (A5:1, 2). Additional soil from inter-seasonal disturbance extended across the bedrock in Square A2, in the same area which had been dug to bedrock in 1997. This square was again cleaned to recover ceramic material strewn over the bedrock. What was learned from this brief season was that the site was larger than previously imagined, and that additional work was needed to understand its character.

In 1999, a two week season was undertaken under the supervision of Laura Foley. All four squares were re-opened (A1, A2, A3, and A5) and one new square (A4), west of Square A2, was opened in an attempt to uncover the perimeter of the site on the northwest. In Square A4, the remains of the western wall (W1004) were exposed on the crest of the hill, overlooking the wadi. A topographical map of the site and its slopes extending down into the wadi bed was prepared by C. M. Foley, director of the regional survey at that time.

The working grid, aligned to magnetic north, was re-established in 2001 reducing the size of Squares A1 and A2 to their original size and a topographical map of the larger area, including both WT-13 and al-Rumayl (WT-18), was prepared by Robert Force. With the discovery of the west wall in Square A4, it became imperative to clarify the easternmost wall (W1003) in Square A1. Thus, a new square (A6) was opened to the south of A1 and east of A5,²¹ while excavation in A1 was resumed. Indeed, a complex association of walls was exposed, and the southeast corner of the structure was revealed.

In a final five week season (2003), all remaining loci in Squares A1, A2, A4, and A6 were completed and one new square (A9) was opened on the west. This square was located on the west slope south of A4 and both were excavated in order to determine the full extent of the archaeological remains. Additional 6.00 × 6.00 m squares (A7 and A8) were laid out and opened on the east to complete the exposure of the east wall (W1003). Square A8 was

extended a further two meters to the east in order to determine the trajectory of the bedrock scarp exposed in A7. The eastern extremity of the site is marked by exposed bedrock and thin soil layers that form a saddle, linking WT-13 with the ridge that extends southeast as far as the modern road. Additional excavation in Square A11 to the north of North Wall 1001 completed our work at the site.

Introduction to the stratigraphy

Based on changes in the architecture and artefactual assemblages, excavation identified two principal Iron Age use phases, each with a distinct configuration and function (Table 1A).²² Within Strata III and II, there is evidence for intensive use of the site, but not of occupation as such. Included in Stratum I are post-Iron Age remains as well as a stone inscribed in Thamudic script and random finds from the Nabataean–early Roman period, which were widely scattered in topsoil layers and were not related to any securely dated architectural construction or identifiable activity area.

Table 1A. *Stratigraphic sequence*

<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Features</i>	<i>Chronology</i>
I	late walls; pottery and objects	Post-Iron Age, Nabataean–Early Roman
IIA	final use surface	Iron II
IIB	temenos	Iron II
IIC	fill	Iron II
IIIA	ash layer	Early Iron II
IIIB	cooking areas	Late Iron I–Early Iron II

Documentation and recording methods

Dearman compiled the initial documentation of Site WT-13 in 1996 using the Regional Survey recording sheets designed by the

Hesban Survey and modified according to the needs of the Wadi ath-Thamad project.²³ At that time, the architecture was not exposed, but lay buried under the collapsed debris and a thick layer of wind-blown soil. Initial documentation of the size of the site and of its features was revised in later seasons. Eight features were documented on the west side of the modern road, although some of these features may have been related more closely to the site of al-Rumayl than to the activities which took place on the hilltop at WT-13.

During each excavation season, the locus sheets in use at Mudayna Thamad, the principal site under excavation by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project, were used at WT-13 to record the details of soil layers, architecture, and installations.²⁴ Additional forms consisting of running lists for locus numbers, pottery pails, objects, and photographs, along with daily journal sheets, weekly summaries and field phase sheets were also included in the field notebooks.

Object registration

All fragments of organic, geological and ceramic materials (except pottery) were saved and registered as objects (for example, WT-13•A2/31.160=Site [WT-13] Field+Square [A2] / Pottery Pail number [31].Object number [160]); a shortened form includes only the *siglum* 'WT' and the object number (WT 160). Following their cleaning and identification, partially preserved objects with cultural significance, such as figurines, were assigned a season and artefact number (WT 35-2/535=Site [WT] + Object number [35] - Season [2] / Artefact number [535]).²⁵ In the discussions that follow (Chapters 4, 5), all objects are grouped according to types and sub-types within each class, and are identified by their registration number (WT + Object number), the figure number within the text, and by their Field+Square : Locus / Pottery Pail number; artefacts chosen by the Department of Antiquities are identified by both their object and artefact

number. This is followed by material, Munsell Soil Color Codes (where appropriate), technology, decoration (if any), and measurements. The maximum dimensions in centimetres are indicated for artefacts that stand upright as H(eight), W(idth) or D(iameter), and T(hickness), while items which lie flat are described with their L(ength), W(idth) or D(iameter), T(hickness).²⁶ Objects with depressions and perforated objects include the interior diameter (int D) and, where relevant, the depth of the depression (int Dpt). The condition (complete, broken, chipped, partially restored, or fragment) of each object appears last. Full details of measurements and weight in kilograms, initials of artists and explanatory comments are recorded last in the database. Parallels from other sites are listed in the text where possible, although an exhaustive study of fragmentary items is not included in this presentation.

Curating the artefacts

At the end of each season, members of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan reviewed the objects and chose those suitable for museum display. These objects are now housed in the Madaba Museum.²⁷ Over six seasons the Department retained a total of sixty-nine artefacts from WT-13. These items ([Table 1B](#)) are designated in the database as located at the DoA. The remaining objects and samples are either at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) or in Jordan.

Ceramic registration

The pottery from WT 13 is almost exclusively Iron Age, although a number of sherds represent vessels that date to the Roman period. Since the shrine was not in use at that time, these sherds are considered random finds.²⁸ However, like all diagnostic ceramic remains from the site, the Roman sherds were registered. During excavation, pottery pail numbers are listed on the reverse of their

respective locus sheets and in a running list for each square. Individual diagnostic sherds from a given pail are registered according to their find spot, pottery pail and item number; this code includes the Site [WT13] +Field [A]+Square [2] Pail number [35] Sherd number [1] (for example, WT13 A2•35•1). The full registration found in the text may include the locus number, Field+Square : Locus number / Pail number. Sherd number (A2:23/35.1). Because several loci may constitute a single feature, this number is given only in certain instances. More common is a streamlined number including only Field+Square / Pail number. Sherd number (A2/35.1). Due to the condition of the ceramic material, only a small number of vessels could be partially restored and were given vessel numbers in the range P1300–P1399. An individual P number represents a group of sherds that constitute a discrete vessel whose formal type could be identified. Unfortunately, there were no intact vessels apart from two miniature juglets (P1301, P1302), which were too thick and too small to break easily. However, both are missing their rim. Altogether, nearly 35,000 sherds were recovered and, of these, 4,182 are diagnostic. Of the diagnostics, more than 2500 were colour coded using Munsell Soil Color Charts and more than 1600 were drawn and now serve as the basis for the discussion of the ceramic assemblage and activity areas.²⁹

Table 1B. Artefacts in the Madaba Museum

<i>1996 Survey</i>	
WT1301/520	Phrygian statue
WT1301/521	Sherd
WT1301/521	Sherd
<i>1997 Season</i>	
WT1301/535	Sherd
WT1301/542	Sherd
WT1301/544	Sherd
WT1301/553	Sherd
WT1301/572	Sherd (head missing)
WT1301/578	Sherd (head (limestone))

WEnb027/586 (intact)
 WEnb028/587 object
 WEnb029/592 line head
 WEnb0412/604 protome
 WEnb0420/603 phic statue
 WEnb042/588 let (black)
 WEnb052/644 WT 123
 WEnb057/655 WT 123
 WEnb062/662 (faience)

1998 Season

WEnb080/501 rine
 WEnb081/504
 WEnb082/502 rine
 WEnb083/503 phic fragment

1999 Season

WEnb096/504
 WEnb097/502 e head
 WEnb098/503 with WT 181
 WEnb099/504
 WEnb100/505 e head
 WEnb101/506 head
 WEnb102/507
 WEnb103/510 head
 WEnb104/511 e
 WEnb105/508 + drum

2001 Season

WEnb106/501 rine head
 WEnb107/502
 WEnb108/503 e head
 WEnb109/504
 WEnb110/505 e head
 WEnb111/506
 WEnb112/507
 WEnb113/508 torso
 WEnb114/509

Wfa429-6/510 mortar

Wfa421-6/511 per(?)

2003 Season

Wfa439-6/501

Wfa444-6/502

Wfa457-6/504

Wfa446-6/503

Wfa466-6/505

Wfa467-6/527 under

Wfa472-6/506

Wfa479-6/526 head

Wfa481-6/507

Wfa484-6/508 red statuette

Wfa499-6/509

Wfa500-6/510

Wfa507-6/511

Wfa508-6/512

Wfa509-6/513

Wfa510-6/514

Wfa511-6/515

Wfa512-6/516

Wfa516-6/517

Wfa517-6/518

Wfa518-6/519

Wfa521-6/520

Wfa523-6/521

Wfa524-6/522 figurine head

Wfa528-6/523 and leg fragment

Wfa529-6/524 and leg fragment

Wfa533-6/525 and ankles

Wfa539-6/528

Control of the artefact and ceramic corpus is complicated by the division of the assemblages and the slow recognition of possible mends, not to mention the re-identification of certain fragments from pottery to artefacts and vice versa. In spite of extensive study, the identity of certain fragments remains

uncertain. This is reflected in the diversity of cultural traditions and the complexity of the ritual behaviours which were carried out at WT-13 at various times during the Iron Age.

Notes

1 Although a handful of sherds are Roman in date, there were no architectural remains from this period at WT-13 and no other evidence for later reuse of the site. This mixture of Iron Age and Roman remains is common at numerous sites in northern Moab, where Iron Age forts and town sites were reused in the Nabataean–early Roman period. Nearby sites with early Roman period habitation that may account for the presence of these sherds include Qasr az-Za‘faran (WT-34) and Tauga (WT-6).

2 Site WT-13 is a separate and distinct site from Mudayna Thamad (*pace* Mierse 2012:138, who identifies WT-13 (3 km to the west) as the second shrine at Mudayna (instead of the shrine with two standing stones in front of the North Gate; Daviau *et al.* 2006: fig. 4). Within the territory of ancient Moab, there are six sites known as Khirbat al-Mudayna (Miller 1989b). The site on the Wadi ath-Thamad with this name is the northernmost settlement, assigned the number WT-1 by the Wadi ath-Thamad survey team.

3 Zevit (2001:180) compares this site in its simplicity to Middle Minoan peak sanctuaries; however, these sanctuaries are characterized by craggy mountain tops riddled by fissures, one or more trees, religious iconography (rock drawings), a temenos wall and, at certain sites, structures consisting of several rooms, along with horns of consecration, figurines or statues, and a wide variety of cultic paraphernalia and pottery, including rhyta and keroi (Rutkowski 1986:73–98).

4 Although I agree with the interpretation of these finds as cultic, Coogan’s criterion of “isolated” does not seem to apply to a building inside a town site, for example, the earlier interpretation of the structure in the city of Dhībān (*pace* Mattingly 1989:229).

5 At Ḥorvat Qiṭmit, 792 objects were registered, not including ceramic vessels, while at ‘En Ḥaṣeva, there were 67 objects of clay and 7 of stone (Cohen and Yisraeli 1995:224); these numbers are in stark contrast to the situation at the “Bull Site” with its

handful of possible cultic artefacts.

6 The Iron Age I architecture at Tall Jawa in Ammon was exposed in a very limited area; the majority of the 900+ pottery sherds were in secondary contexts (Daviau 2003:323–42).). Ji and Attiyat (1997) and Ji and Lee (2003) conducted survey on the Dhibân Plateau in which they identified sites with Iron Age I pottery and studied them in association with those which were previously excavated, such as Khirbat al-Lahun, Arair, and Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Muarradja. No evidence for cultic sites was recognized.

7 The only anomaly in the Missouri collection is the presence of animal figurines. No zoomorphic figures from among the more than 179 figurines at Mudayna Thamad were located in Temple 149 (Daviau and Steiner 2000), while the figurines and statues present in the temple at Atarus are quite different in style from the equid and bovine figurines from other town sites. In the WT-13 corpus, there is a meagre representation of zoomorphic figures consisting of two ceramic fragments, one head and one rear quarters, and, possibly, one stone paw(?); [Chapter 5](#) below.

8 As the wadi continues to flow southwest, it becomes known as Wadi Wala.

9 This distance is line of sight, measured with a Bushnell Compact 800 Yardage Pro, which reads in both metric and standard measurements and in this case corresponds to total station readings. The topographical map was prepared by Robert Force and Christopher M. Foley using a Leica total station and UTM coordinates were assigned to both sites.

10 Based on the 1996 report of the Wadi ath-Thamad Regional Survey, Site WT-13 was identified as Rumayl South as noted in the updated on-line version of JADIS (prior to 2009) and cited as such in our early publications (Daviau 2006:24, n. 18); the site was not listed in the 1994 printed edition; now see MEGA Jordan.

11 The distance from a datum set up at al-Rumayl to WT-13 reads 270 m at a bearing of 190°; this reading was taken by C. M. Foley in 2003 for the Wadi ath-Thamad Survey.

12 The ancient name of Khirbat al-Rumayl remains in dispute; for a discussion of the location of sites in this region that are mentioned in biblical texts and in Eusebius, see Dearman (1989b), MacDonald

(2000), and Vieweger (1995). The location of al-Rumayl is given in JADIS (1994) as PGE 233000, PGN 109400; JADIS # 2310.002. The readings taken by Foley are UTME 772801, UTMN 3496932.

13 It is at the point where Wadi Zaʿfaran flows south and meets Wadi ath-Thamad that the name Wadi Rumayl is used, although it is just the continuation of Wadi ath-Thamad.

14 This description reflects the situation in 1996 (field report of J. Andrew Dearman); little change has occurred in subsequent years, except for continued erosion. Further downstream, a dam has been constructed on Wadi Wala, but this does not have an impact upstream in the valley below WT-13.

15 Carlos Cordova, then at Oklahoma State University, served as a member of the Wadi ath-Thamad Survey team in 1998 and 1999. For a report on land forms and prehistoric sites, see Cordova (2000; 2007) and Cordova *et al.* (2005).

16 Also known in earlier literature as Wadi Heidan (Eds.).

17 The Wadi ath-Thamad Survey is designed to investigate the Wadi ath-Thamad drainage system, including the Wadis Shabik, Rawiq, and Zaʿfaran. Such a survey will help to put the Iron Age and Nabataean settlements at Mudayna Thamad in a broader landscape, revealing the water and land management strategies in the drainage basin and the changing settlement patterns over time.

18 Sherds sent to Leiden for study and analysis are indicated as such.

19 Team members for all seasons are listed in the Preface.

20 Eight features had been identified during the 1996 season.

21 Square A6 included the southern 2.00 m of Square A1, which had not been dug below topsoil loci in previous seasons. The same was true for A5 in the southern sector of A2. These squares had been expanded to a length of 8.00 m in the first season, in order to document the location of Wall 1002 running east–west just south of the limits of A1 and A2.

22 An earlier version of the strata utilized by Dolan in her dissertation (2007:106) served as the basis for analysis of artefacts and ecofacts by various scholars, even though it later became apparent that only two strata (IIB, IIA) represent recognizable cultic activity areas at the site.

23 The Wadi ath-Thamad Project is grateful to Gary

Christopherson, who granted permission to use the 1996 Hesban Survey Manual and its recording sheets. The decision to use an existing system was made in order to record survey data in a standard format that could be compared with other sites in Jordan using the same or a similar recording system.

24 The locus sheets are a slightly revised version of those used at Tall Jawa with permission of the Madaba Plains Project. Soil, architecture, and installation sheets are included in the Wadi ath-Thamad Excavation Manual.

25 In order to distinguish finds from WT-13 from those excavated at Mudayna Thamad during the same season, the artefact *siglum* includes the site code (WT)+object # - season / artefact #. Although object numbers are continuous, beginning in 1999, artefact numbers for finds from WT-13 and from Wadi ath-Thamad survey sites, begin each season at 500 (WT 67-2/567). Objects from Mudayna Thamad begin with the site code (MT) and include an object #; artefacts of museum quality have the site code (MT)+object # - season / artefact #. At Mudayna, all artefact numbers are in the range of 1–499 in a given season (for example, MT 390-4/11).

In 1999, objects continued to receive an object number in the running list, but only well-preserved artefacts were assigned an artefact number, since only a certain number of these objects were chosen for the Madaba Museum at the division of finds. Beginning in 2001, all artefacts were presented to the Department of Antiquities, Madaba Museum. Following the change of policy by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan regarding objects, the Season+Artefact number was added in the database to each object assigned to the Madaba Museum from the 1996–1998 seasons.

26 Only a few object entries include the weight (Wgt), which is indicated in grams (g) for those artefacts that weigh less than 1,000 grams. Larger objects are weighed in kilograms (kg).

27 With the completion of the new Jordan Museum in Amman, a small number of artefacts from the Wadi ath-Thamad Project have been requested by the Museum and are now on display.

28 Along with the handful of Early Roman-Nabataean sherds, a stone with three Thamudic letters inscribed on one surface is assigned to the same period (WT 559; see [Chapter 13](#)).

29 In an initial ceramic study, Dolan (2007) studied 92 diagnostic sherds from secure loci. More recent study has noted that during excavation hundreds of bases were recovered, some of which are ambiguous in their assignment to a particular vessel and thus are less informative than rim sherds in determining the class and function of the vessels of which they were a part. Only a selection of these base sherds has now been drawn and tentatively assigned to their class in the online database.

Approaches to religious rituals and cultic behaviour

P. M. Michèle Daviau

Introduction

As Colin Renfrew realized when he excavated the sanctuary of Phylakopi on Melos (1985:1), the discovery of a site with cultic artefacts presents a challenge for both the excavators and the interpreters of the data. The excavation by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project of two cultic sites within 3.0 km of each other (Temple 149 at Mudayna Thamad and WT-13), each with a distinct assemblage, was an even greater challenge; first to properly identify the cultic structures at these sites and then to design strategies for their excavation, recording, mapping and interpretation. In our identification of these sites and their cultic assemblages, we benefited greatly from the theoretical approach developed by Renfrew, consisting of criteria suitable for the recognition and explanation of data from sites for which there are no contemporary texts to illuminate the beliefs and rituals of the ancient worshippers. This is not to say that there are no ancient texts which might prove helpful, only that there are no specific references in the literature to cultic buildings at these sites in

Jordan or to their cultic paraphernalia. The archaeological remains at both sites were recognized as cultic on the basis of the presence of explicitly religious objects and, in the case of Mudayna Thamad, of a building (Temple 149) with features similar to other securely identified temples, such as the temple at Arad (Herzog 2001, 2002) and the more elaborate Temple 650 at Tel Mique-Ekron (Gitin 2012: fig. 6). Secondly, parallels for certain figurines found at WT-13 with those from known cult sites in the Levant facilitated the designation of a number of objects as elements of cultic equipment.

At the same time, WT-13 has very little in common with Temple 149 or the temple discovered at  Atarus, southwest of Madaba,¹ leading to the hypothesis that there is considerable variability in religious expression across central Jordan in the Iron Age. An even greater diversity in religious practice at sites in ancient Palestine west of the Jordan has been clearly demonstrated by Ziony Zevit in his 2001 study of the religions of ancient Israel. Zevit was able to review not only the full corpus of published sites, but also the results of recent, unpublished excavations which produced material culture remains related directly to religious activity. Based on the features and artefacts preserved in the archaeological record, he assigned to each site various criteria which he adapted from those of Renfrew (1985:19–20).² In order to put these criteria in a richer context, Zevit also investigated references to cultic ritual in Hebrew literature and in contemporary inscriptions. This resulted in an increased awareness of the great diversity of customs and ideologies that flourished in Israelite society during the Iron Age. A study of 675 Hebrew personal names by Albertz (Albertz and Schmitt 2012:245–609) revealed aspects of family religion and practice which also adds to our understanding of ritual acts practiced on the clan or tribal level. This was accompanied by a study of the archaeological evidence for the domestic cult by Schmitt, whose focus clarifies the differences and similarities

between domestic and public religious practices (Albertz and Schmitt 2012:57–244; 2014).

One common feature at many sites in Israel is the presence of iconographic objects, especially small figurines. These male, female and animal figures, along with references in the Hebrew Scriptures and depictions on seals and other objects, indicate that there was a diversity of divine imagery in Israel, including images of Asherah (Kletter 1996), Baʿal(?) on a horse (Stern 2001:83)³, Bes (Beck 2012), and possibly of Yahweh (van der Toorn 2002:50–51; Stern 2001:208). This implies that figurines and amulets found in domestic contexts may have been more directly related to the iconography of official cult images than was previously thought. There is some evidence that this was indeed the case in Ammon, where ceramic figurines wearing the *atef* crown⁴ from non-temple contexts, such as Building 102 at Tall Jawa (Daviau and Dion 1994), are similar to the crowned stone statues and heads found in secondary contexts in the Amman area (Abou Assaf 1980). Although not directly related to a known temple, these statues were clearly monumental figures fulfilling several of Renfrew's criteria (1985:22–23) for identifying images of the deity (size and attributes). At the same time, small figurines need not be restricted to the domestic or industrial cult, nor are they exclusively votive in nature. Small metal and ceramic images could just as well represent the deity in the larger communal context.⁵

While Zevit's study has great value for the investigation of the material correlates of Israel's religious traditions, there are, nevertheless, several factors that need to be considered especially in the realm of religious iconography. Although there may be a certain fundamental similarity in the underlying religious beliefs of the peoples of the Levant, the religious traditions of the Moabites and Ammonites vary somewhat from those found in late Iron Age Judah. Based on the theophoric elements in the personal names that appear on seals and in a small number of texts, it is clear that several deities were worshiped in Moab (Timm 1989:

159 ff.; Mattingly 1989: 216–226). The most recent study of theophoric elements in 30 Moabite personal names is that of Albertz (Albertz and Schmitt 2012: table 5.9), who identifies seven different deities (Yel, Kamoš, Baʿal, Adad, Malk, Hauron, and Raḥban), not including the 12 occurrences of names incorporating divinized kinship terms (divine mother and father).⁶ Certain geographical names mentioned in the 9th century Meshaʿ Inscription from Dhībān and the Hebrew Scriptures (Dearman 2009:102), such as Beth Baʿal Meʿon, Beth [Baʿal] Peor⁷ and Nebo, contain theophoric elements (Dolan 2007:50–54), which also testify to traditions linked to various deities worshiped in the region.⁸ At present, the iconography of these deities among the Moabites has not been determined, even though nearly 300 examples of male and female figurines, statues, and amulets have been recovered. Better understood are seals with astral signs, which are found in the repertoire of seals from Jordan (Timm 1989; Egger and Keel 2006; Daviau and Dion 2002a).

Secondly, it is only the Meshaʿ Inscription that makes explicit reference to a small number of cultic practices and of religious objects known to exist in the Land of Madaba and in Gad that were acquired through conquest (Dolan 2007; Routledge 2004; Dearman 1989a). But even here, the allusions to Israelite and Moabite cult paraphernalia are obscure (see Lipiński 2006:340–342).⁹ When we turn to the Iron Age evidence from archaeological excavations, there is a paucity of iconographic evidence depicting actual performance of rituals. As well, the number of Iron Age religious structures in Jordan is limited, due in part to the accident of excavation (Gaß 2009:287–292; Mierse 2012:131–132, 150–151; Elkowicz 2012:80–97).¹⁰ In view of these limitations, the interpretation of the religious structures, objects and ecofacts uncovered to date by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project requires a combination of comparative and analogical approaches to explicate their meaning and that of the religious rituals and practices performed in antiquity.

Defining a methodology

For societies that predate the Iron Age in Palestine and Transjordan, the situation is even more complex than for the Iron Age, because of the lack of textual evidence and cultural continuity. The Chalcolithic ritual centre of Gilat excavated by Levy (2006) is one such site. Not only is Levy interested in describing the material correlates of religious ritual using a combination of structuralist and functionalist approaches, but he also seeks to explain complex cult rituals as a component of developing societies (2006:8–9). In order to explore the belief systems embodied in the ritual acts at Gilat, Levy (2006:10–11) made use of the criteria which were developed by Renfrew for the recognition of ritual behaviour from its material correlates. While these same correlates set the standard for our work at WT-13, a number of them are more relevant to a cult site within a town setting, such as Phylakopi (Hawkins 2012:1) and are not pertinent to this small semi-isolated site. It is here that the criteria developed by Coogan to re-evaluate the “Bull Site” are most useful. He includes: isolation, a feature that may involve separation from the nearest settlement and an area marked by a *temenos* wall (Coogan 1987:2–3); exotic materials not typical of purely domestic contexts; continuity involving the reuse of a cultic site even if the rituals and belief systems have changed; and parallels, meaning that there are similar sites or features that are contemporary. Coogan’s understanding of isolation is especially important for WT-13, since it is not only extramural, like the favissa at Çen Haseva, but is separated from al-Rumayl by ca. 300 m. This is much closer, however, than the 800 m distance of Trench E 207 from the citadel at Samaria (Crowfoot *et al.* 1942: fig. 11; pl. I; Steiner 1997).

The most relevant criteria from these studies can be adapted for WT-13 and serve as hypotheses to be tested:¹¹

Table 2A. Correlates for identifying a cultic structure at WT-13

1)

Cultic activity may require the

-
- | | |
|-----|---|
| | choice of a geographical setting with special meaning or position in the landscape; |
| 2) | The construction of a suitable architectural space can be recognized; |
| 3) | The organization of space provides one or more 'attention focusing' devices; |
| 4) | Cult images may represent the deity in the form of figurines or symbols; |
| 5) | Certain installations may be designed for use in various rituals; |
| 6) | A variety of votive offerings and exotic materials may reflect the ethnicity and religious traditions of those who used the site; |
| 7) | Portable equipment and vessels may be components of cult equipment; |
| 8) | Symbols related to the deities may be objects of worship; |
| 9) | There may be paraphernalia reflecting the influence or inspiration from more than one religious tradition; |
| 10) | A given assemblage may indicate the extent of various belief systems. |
-

What is assumed in these criteria is that there is sufficient evidence for repeated action; that is, the site was used repeatedly, not just once and then abandoned, and that there is a sufficient quantity of artefacts indicative of such behaviour. Even sites used in special circumstances were likely to become pilgrimage venues visited repeatedly by members of the same or later generations to commemorate the initial ceremony performed in that setting. The long use and remodelling of the Serabit el-Khadem temple complex adjacent to the copper mines in the Sinai is a case in

point (Petrie 1906).¹²

A certain set of questions (Table 2B) derive from the study of these material correlates:

Table 2B. Questions regarding the nature of the cult

1)	Which deities were worshipped at WT-13 during Stratum II?
2)	Does the proportion of female to male figures reflect the gender roles of the worshippers who participated in the rituals?
3)	Can the frequency of ritual acts be used to explain the purpose of the site and the reasons for its location in relation to the distribution of Iron Age walled towns and roads in the region?
4)	Who were the worshippers and caretakers of the site?
5)	What social and political changes affected the use and termination of cultic activities at the site?

Table 2C. Questions regarding cultic behaviour

1)	What was the role of WT-13 in central Jordan? Was it a neighbourhood cult centre, a regional cult centre, a wayside shrine for travellers? Did it have more than one function at different times?
2)	Does the cultic repertoire represent one or more traditions or ethnic groups?
3)	Can Moabite practices be identified and distinguished from non-Moabite rituals?
4)	What votive gifts were brought to

	WT-13 and are these characteristic of the regions from which they came?
5)	Can we identify the dominant rituals and distinguish them from less common or occasional rituals?
6)	What was the frequency of occurrence of these rituals?
7)	Is there any evidence for sacrifice of animals or humans?
8)	Can libation offerings be identified?
9)	What was the function of anthropomorphic figures and whom do they represent?
10)	Does the iconography suggest specific religious beliefs?
11)	Does the earlier use of the site imply a different cultic practice or merely a 'non-religious' ritual?
12)	What were the social dynamics of the region that are reflected in the material culture of WT-13?

In his study of the rituals at Gilat, Levy also designed a series of questions (Table 2C) to address the archaeological remains and better understand the nature of the finds themselves, their meaning, their relationship to ritual acts, and their role in Gilat society. To the degree that they are relevant, these questions can be re-designed to determine their suitability for analysis of a site within an Iron Age territorial polity.

In a recent study, Kamlah (2012:507–510) distinguished three overarching categories: intramural temples, extramural sanctuaries, and shrines. A “temple” refers to a large principal cult building in a major town, as well as to secondary sacred structures of simpler style in modest settlements, and to small temples within a fortress. “Sanctuaries,” such as gate shrines/cult area and small extramural cult structures, are adjacent to or part of the

settlement, whereas a second category includes the isolated cult sites at some distance from settlement sites. The term “shrine” is reserved for the structure which serves as a focal point within a temple. Taking into account the social setting of cult sites, Schmitt (2014:266–267) designed a typology of cult places that is related to activities by family and tribal groups; these include 1) places used by the nuclear family, organized either by the woman or other caretaker of the cult, 2) places used by the family and their kinfolk, 3) installations designed for extended family or neighbourhood use, 4) cult places related to burial rites, 5) village-wide sanctuaries, such as small temples, gate shrines and extramural sanctuaries, 6) elite sanctuaries reserved for a specific social group, 7) regional sanctuaries used by a tribal group or multiple communities, and 8) the temple of the official cult of the kingdom. Such refinement is especially useful in addressing some of the questions posed above and can facilitate our understanding of the material correlates of cultic behaviour in a specific setting. Best suited to describe WT-13 are Kamlah’s category of isolated sanctuary/cult site apart from a settlement and Schmitt’s type 5.

Artefacts, context and ritual activities

The discovery of a significant assemblage of exotic artefacts at WT-13 and its semi-isolated location puts this site in a similar category as Ḥorvat Qiṭmit in the Negev,  En Ḥaṣeva overlooking the Wadi Arabah and Tall Damiyah in the Jordan Valley. However, there are significant differences that need to be addressed. Of primary importance is the proximity of the site of al-Rumayl, a major Iron Age town on the northern perimeter of the Dhībān plateau. Secondly, the stratigraphy of WT-13 demonstrates more than one phase of use, each with a distinct assemblage ([Chapters 3, 15](#)). For both of these phases, the natural setting and its features form the framework or context for the activities carried on here. Together these elements are reflective of the choices of the ancient peoples who designed and used the site for various

purposes. It is helpful that the artefact assemblage from the Late Iron Age horizon (Stratum II) appears to be quite consistent. This means that these artefacts can be identified by comparison with other known Iron Age II assemblages, and subsequently studied in terms of their function in ritual behaviour and their meaning for social and religious values.

Because very little is known at present about Moabite religious traditions, this study may also help to illuminate the religion or religions practised in Moabite territory. In 1989, Mattingly (1989:213) could stress the fact that there is only a limited amount of archaeological evidence for Moabite religion, and what does exist lends itself to a variety of interpretations. Even this writer could affirm in 1998 that “the archaeological record has been silent in regard to temples and their furnishings, religious festivals and cultic practices” (Daviau 2001c:317). However, that opinion was written prior to the excavation of the temple (Building 149) at Mudayna Thamad (Daviau and Steiner 2000) and the discovery there of three limestone altars. Now, with the recovery of cultic artefacts from other buildings at Mudayna Thamad,¹³ as well as the excavation and publication of a temple at the site of ʿAtarus to the southwest (Ji 2012) and the renewed excavations at Dhībān (Porter *et al.* 2005), there is firm evidence for religious activities carried out within town sites.

These recent discoveries have changed the situation in Transjordan in that the primary evidence for religious activity is no longer based merely on surface finds and artefacts from tombs, such as those from the original excavations at Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: figs. 14–24). While important in their own right, these tombs contained a limited repertoire of vessel types, including bowls/kraters, perforated tripod cups, Cypro-Phoenician juglets, and lamps. A second corpus from tombs at Mount Nebo (Saller 1966: fig. 28) consists of large numbers of ceramic vessels and a small number of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines, a corpus which provides some evidence for religious

behaviour, specifically for funerary customs. Finally, an interesting assemblage of artefacts from a supposed “Moabite” provenience consists of female figurines, a model shrine, perforated cups, animal figurines and lamps (Weinberg 1978). Because this group has no specific context, it can only be used as comparanda with a caveat, since it may not have come from Transjordan.¹⁴ On the other hand, there actually are several possible sources in the Madaba area for such a group of artefacts, although the individual items may represent more than one religious tradition. With all of these finds associated with religious behaviour, it may even be possible to make certain connections between the religious practices carried out in the final use phases at WT-13 and those performed in Temple 149 at Mudayna Thamad. There appear to be certain parallels between the female figurines found inside the temple proper (Daviau and Steiner 2000: fig. 11:5–7) and the figurines from WT-13. The most telling find from Mudayna Thamad is that of a small ceramic drum (MT 3450) comparable to the instruments held by pillar figurines from the shrine.

Evidence for Iron Age domestic and industrial cult activities is also beginning to accumulate (Schmitt 2014). Good stratigraphic contexts at Tall Jawa yielded a variety of artefacts and vessels used in the domestic cult (Daviau 2001b; 2014a). So too, at Balu in central Moab, three figurines were found *in situ* on a house floor (Worschech 1995:185). At Mudayna Thamad, altars were recovered in both domestic and industrial contexts (Daviau 2007, 2014a), comparable to the evidence for cultic activity at Tel Migne-Ekron (Gitin 1992:43; 2012: fig. 3). In this study, it may be possible to identify the degree of similarity between Moabite domestic and industrial cults, the cult at WT-13 and Moabite or Gadite temple cult.

The earliest remains at WT-13 represent an entirely different use of the site. Here the natural formation served as the framework for an area where a large amount of ash, some pottery and numerous animal bones accumulated. These finds require a

completely different assessment of the purpose and function of the site and of its relationship to its landscape, in contrast to the later use phase. It may be more on the lines of open air feasting or burnt offering sites, but not of a structural *bamah*, such as those known in the Negev (Levine 1993) and in pre-Classical Greece and Europe (Fritz 1993). For societies where textual material is lacking or unrelated to the rituals in question, it is necessary to refine our criteria to determine the degree to which a ritual act was religious. Renfrew also warns against the simplistic interpretation of the presence of animal bones as evidence for feasting without determining whether ritual, other than discarding of food remains, was actually involved, without further specifying the nature of that ritual (Renfrew 2007:11).

Ceramic corpus

Due to the disturbance of WT-13 in modern times, there are some problems in assigning the ceramic assemblages to a specific horizon ([Chapter 3](#)). This difficulty is compounded by the state of the relative ceramic chronology for Transjordan where the best known assemblages for Moab are from published tomb groups and surveys (see above). Ceramic vessels associated with Iron Age II artefacts at WT-13 can, to a certain extent, be interpreted as components of the same cultic assemblage and may be used to identify ritual acts. In addition, the chronological links established by a comparative study of artefacts from WT-13 makes it possible to assign those ceramic materials which were out of context to a distinct chronological phase (Stratum III or II). Thus a certain number of vessels used for libations, cosmetics, food offerings and ritual meals can be securely related to cultic assemblages. Other ritual acts, associated with the faunal remains and pottery dating to the earlier period (Stratum III), can be isolated in order to put this assemblage into the broader context of Semitic and Levantine traditions.¹⁵

Figurines and statues

Of importance for the study of ritual behaviour during the principal use phase at Site WT-13 (Stratum II) are those criteria for cultic action that emphasize iconography and imagery (Renfrew's original correlates 4, 14).¹⁶ A study of the ceramic figurines and statues will establish links with the large collections of unprovenienced figures as well as those recovered in domestic contexts. It may also serve to refine the distinction between images of deities and those of worshippers, further adding to our understanding of the rituals acted out at the site.

Religion

The site of WT-13 and its assemblages make an important contribution to the religions of ancient Jordan. Even though the site appears to be unknown in ancient texts, its location on the Jordanian plateau southeast of Madaba, places it in Moabite territory, at least during Iron Age IIB–C. Various studies of the mid-9th century Mesha¹⁷ Inscription and of the Hebrew scriptures support the assumption that there is a certain degree of homogeneity in the religions of Semitic peoples in the Levant during the Iron Age (Mattingly 1989; Stern 2003). The Mesha¹⁸ Inscription itself supports this understanding and provides additional information concerning the transfer of cultic items into the realm of Chemosh following the conquest of certain Transjordanian sites that had for a time been taken over by the Israelites (Lipiński 2006:340–342). Using biblical sources in his study of Old Testament religion, Albertz (1994) discusses the full range of possible cultic actions including family worship in the home, family rituals outside the home (such as mourning rites), clan level ceremonies, public cultic actions in the local shrine, and paying of vows or offering a firstborn. At the same time, we have a dilemma that appears in several spheres of archaeology in that the materials recovered through excavation do not correlate well with

the actions mentioned in the texts (Daviau 2007:125; 2014a). In fact, evidence for most of these practices in secure archaeological contexts remains limited.

Little was known of the actual material correlates of Moabite ritual prior to the most recent excavations in Jordan, since many of the figurines, seals, model shrines, and even stone statues attributed to Transjordan are from secondary contexts or are unprovenienced objects in private or museum collections. Without a primary context, the way in which these items were used and the person or persons who used them cannot now be ascertained. Identifying a cultic context is also problematic, since it is clear from the recovery of data from hundreds of sites west of the Jordan that the majority of known Iron Age religious structures are often one of a kind. The result is that the architecture of Site WT-13 has few close parallels at other sites in Jordan and Palestine.

Search for parallels

The search for parallels extends beyond central Transjordan into southern Judah and the Negev, northern Jordan and Syria, as well as to Phoenician sites in the Levant and on Cyprus. Sites with a certain degree of spatial similarity to WT-13 include the shrine at Frangissa near Tamasos on Cyprus, Sarepta and Tall Damiyah (Chapters 3, 15), while the closest parallels for the WT-13 ceramic statues are those from shrines in the Negev, the Arabah and Jordan Valley, although the ceramic potting traditions of these sites have little in common. The typological and comparative study of these statues (Chapter 4), along with the analysis of their ceramic fabric (Chapter 8), seeks to determine the degree to which these three unusual sites (WT-13, Ḥorvat Qitmit and En Ḥaṣeva) are reflections of shared religious ideologies and ritual practices. At the same time, additional parallels for the ceramic statues come from Edom, northern Jordan, Syria, and the Phoenician world, putting their exclusive association with sites in Cisjordan in doubt.

Other objects from WT-13 ([Chapters 5, 12](#)) are compared with the corpus of published artefacts from Tall Jawa in Ammonite territory (Daviau 2002) and with assemblages from sites throughout the southern Levant, which may help to illuminate their function and value to the ancient peoples who frequented the shrine. Correlate number 9 is especially important in this regard, since we cannot assume that this cult site served a single community that shared a common belief system, nor can we assume that it represents typical Moabite religious practice even though it is located in what was then Moabite territory.

In this study of the objects and pottery, as well as the ecofacts ([Chapters 10, 11](#)) and the faunal material ([Chapter 9](#)), the goal will be to contribute to an understanding of certain elements of ritual behaviour and their possible meaning and importance as components of the religions of Transjordan. The cultic paraphernalia will also illuminate the degree to which various influences, especially those of Assyria, Phoenicia and Egypt, are reflected in the material culture of the worshippers at the shrine. It may also help to establish the degree of shared culture among the inhabitants of the small kingdoms of Jordan and southern Syria (Ammon, Moab, Edom and Aram/Damascus) and their neighbours west of the Jordan (Israel, Judah, Philistia, Phoenicia and its colonies).

Notes

- 1 The long awaited publication by Chang-Ho Ji of the plan and objects from Khirbat ʿAtarus appeared recently (2012).
- 2 Renfrew (1985:20) cautions that his behavioural correlates of public ritual do not constitute a “check list” that guarantees successful identification of sacred space and equipment. The data must be tested as much as possible to assure that religious and not secular ritual or play is involved.
- 3 Stern reiterates this opinion in a later article (2003:315), where he emphasizes the influence of Phoenicia on the religious iconography and ritual of Palestinian religions. One must be

cautious here, since other scholars see these figurines as a reflection of the greater use of cavalry in the late first millennium when the use of chariotry was in decline.

4 The *atef* or Osiris crown, long used in Egypt as a divine attribute, was also well known in the Levant as the symbol of El, especially at Ugarit (Negbi 1976: figs. 54, 129; see also the list of original publications for this statuette by M. Eaton-Krauss and K. Kohlmeyer in Weiss 1985). For occurrences of this attribute on statues, figurines and reliefs, beginning with an ivory inlay from the Middle Bronze Age Palace P at Ebla, see Daviau and Dion (1994).

5 This is most clearly seen in the size of small metal figurines catalogued by Negbi (1976:143ff.), many of which are less than 10.0 cm in height.

6 Alberty's study includes nearly 3000 Hebrew names and 1400 Phoenician, Ammonite, Moabite and Aramaic personal names.

7 Site names with 'bet' imply the presence of a temple, as does the reference to Bet Harosh in a new Moabite text fragment (Dearman 2009:99, 111–112).

8 For discussions of the extent of Moab as a territory, see among others, Miller (1989a), MacDonald (2000:171–183) and Routledge (2004).

9 Lipiński (2006:340–342) points out that the verb used in the inscription refers to dragging captives or driving sheep, not removing vessels. Conveniently, the text is damaged at this point and Lipiński modifies it to read "the rams of Yahweh", rather than the "vessels".

10 While this may be a valid statement, more than a century of intensive excavation in Judah has not revealed many more cult buildings for the 8th–7th centuries than are now known from Jordan.

11 Similar correlates were adapted for the analysis and comparison of three temples and three outlying shrine sites in Judah and Moab (Daviau 2012).

12 More recent investigations of the site have not been published in full, with the exception of certain inscriptions.

13 Although there were three altars found in the temple proper, a fourth altar (MT 647-5/1) was in use on the upper storey of a

nearby building (B140), while a fifth (MT 684-5/30) was on the upper storey of pillared Building 200 (Daviau and Dion 2002b:43, photo). There are now more than 40 altars from various structures at the site; a preliminary typology of 16 of these altars was published previously (Daviau 2007).

14 Published in 1978, this collection could have had its origin either in Jordan or the West Bank area of Palestine.

15 In view of the nature of WT-13 and its installations, the correlate of the symbolism of funerary architecture may be relevant in this study (Renfrew/Levy correlate no. 15 regarding funerary practices). That there were numerous contemporary tombs in the area is a strong possibility, given the cave features to the south, west and north of al-Rumayl, and on the flanks of WT-13 itself (Chapter 14). In spite of their proximity, these tombs were all robbed in antiquity with the result that direct evidence is scant and while this interpretation remains reasonable (Chapter 3), it is still tentative.

16 Renfrew's Correlate no. 14 has been conflated with criteria 4, 8 and 9, above.

Stratigraphy, architecture and finds at WT-13

P. M. Michèle Daviau [1](#)

Based on the topography and changes in architecture, excavation revealed two principal use phases separated from one another by a deep fill. Each phase (Strata III and II) had a distinct repertoire of artefacts, while a final phase (Stratum I) contained material culture derived from later occupation in the region but not at the site itself (see [Table 1A](#)).

The stratigraphy of Stratum III

The earliest phase (Stratum III) was located on the east side of the hill at a point where the bedrock (A1:23=A7:4) drops sharply, forming a natural scarp on the west and north sides before continuing to rise in elevation on the north (A11:2; [Figs. 3.1a; 3.2a](#)).² The depression drops between 0.47–0.51 m on the west, and between 0.29–0.54 m along the northeast, forming an angle (roughly 90°) in the scarp on the northwest. The northern scarp extends for 13.0 m with a gradual slope to the southeast. The bedrock (A7:4+A8:14) did not rise again on the south, but did in the east before tapering off along the south-eastern side of the hill,

where it was exposed in a probe (Square A8 extended; Fig. 3.1a, b); from that point on, it extended to the southeast and was exposed again on the slope. The west scarp was traced south for 4.3 m before it entered the west balk of Square A6 and tapered away at the edge of the hill. Both scarp faces were irregular with evidence of horizontal layering and vertical fracturing in the limestone. The lower bedrock surface (A1:46) was also fractured, forming lines of flat-lying stones extending N–S (A1:45; Fig. 3.2a, b).

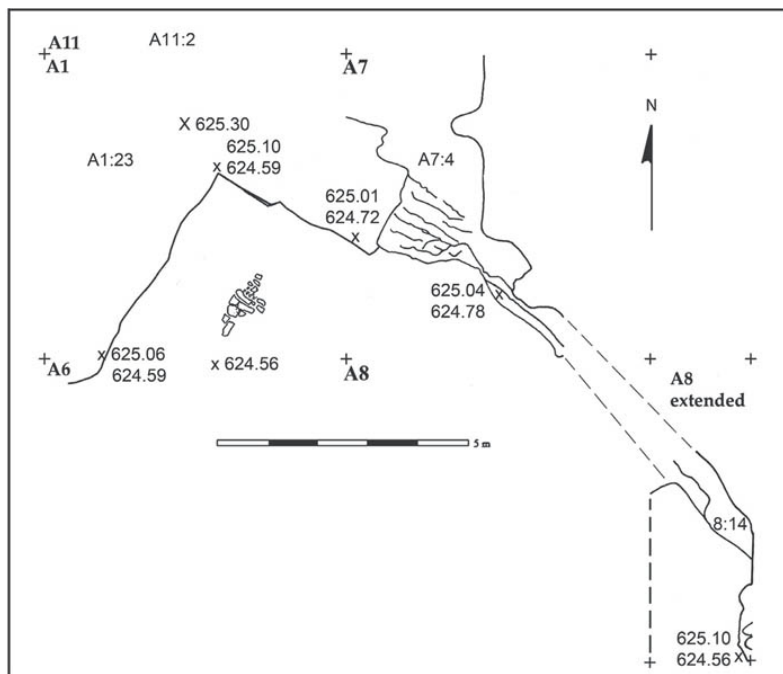
The bedrock below the scarp was covered in part by a hard-packed surface (A1:36=A7:9=A7:13; Fig. 3.2b) that sealed against the face of the north scarp and served as the location of the earliest features. This surface measures 5.55 m (E–W) along the north scarp face and extends south for 1.35–3.85 m. It was interrupted on the west by the line of broken bedrock (A1:45) that separated it from an area of degrading bedrock (A1:42+46), which was packed with soil to fill pockets and crevices. It is on these surfaces that a series of cooking areas were located. On the south and east, the same surface (A6:22) extended over the bedrock, but was devoid of features, suggesting that the focus of activity was restricted to the north around the cooking installations.

The Western Cooking Area (Stratum IIIB, Fig. 3.2b; Table 3A)

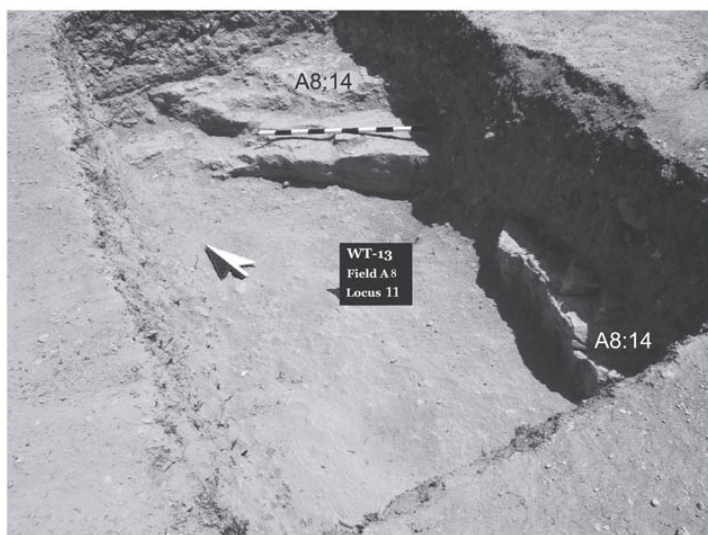
Four cooking installations and an ash concentration were located along the west and north faces of the scarp, which itself served as a wind break (Fig. 3.3a). The two western ovens, one against the west scarp (A1:44) and the other against the fractured face of the north scarp (A1:41), were footed on bedrock, which was cracked from repeated exposure to heat (Fig. 3.3b). Cooking Installation A1:44 consisted of an irregular oval, 0.99 m in length and 0.38–0.64 m in width, surrounded on three sides with small and medium dry-laid cobblestones and filled with dark ashy soil

(A1:43). When found, it stood to a height of 0.08–0.32 m. Cooking installation A1:41 (Fig. 3.3a) was only partially preserved, but it too was framed on the north and west sides by cobblestones in the form of a semicircle (Fig. 3.2a). This feature was approximately 0.72 m in diameter and stood to a height of 0.09–0.21 m. Both ovens were designed to support cooking pots and did not serve as bread ovens (cf. Mulder Hymans 2014).

To the south of these installations, bedrock (A6:26) was uncovered along the west balk and in patches along the east side of Square A6. For the most part, it was covered by a hard-packed soil and cobble layer (A6:23; Fig. 3.4a), eventually merging with the surfaces surrounding the western ovens.



a

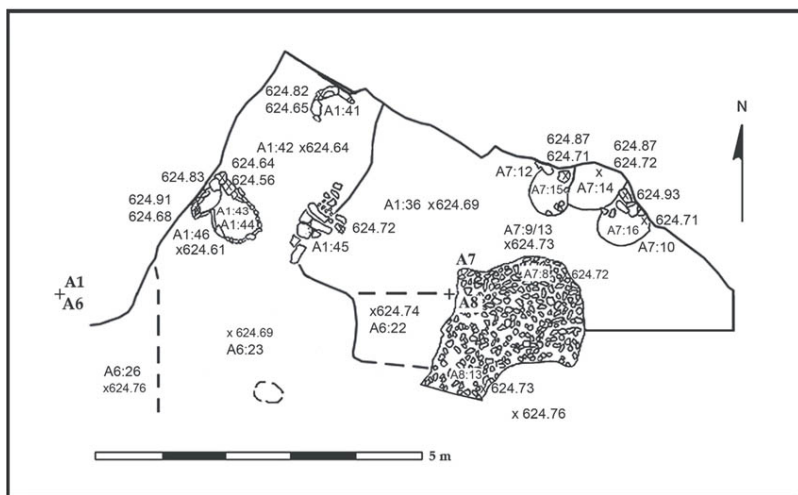


b

Figure 3.1. a) Plan of scarp forming an L-shaped depression; b) detail of southeast end of Bedrock A8:14 and hard-packed surface A8:11 in Square A8 extended



a



b

Figure 3.2. a) Fractured bedrock (A1:45) separating Surface A1:36 from A1:42; cooking installation A1:41 against north scarp of Bedrock A1:23; b) Stratum III plan with cooking installations and pebble pavement

The Eastern Cooking Area (Stratum IIIB, [Fig. 3.2b](#); [Table 3A](#))

As the northern scarp (A7:4) extends east, its layering becomes more pronounced resulting in steps with protruding pieces of

stone at intervals. Constructed upon a hard-packed surface (A7:9=A7:13; Fig. 3.4b) were two ovens, one on either side of a concentration of layered ash, 15–20 cm deep (A7:14). Two stones projecting from the bedrock framed Oven A7:12, which contained a dark circular concentration of ash (A7:15), measuring approximately 0.65×0.50 m and 0.11 m in depth (Fig. 3.3c). This cooking installation (A7:12) was located *ca.* 3.00 m east of Oven A1:41 and was in position against the face of the bedrock scarp west of Ash layer A7:14. The second cooking installation (A7:10) was to the east of A7:14 and was flanked on the north and west by five or more stones. The interior of the oven was filled with ash (A7:16) that measured 0.75 m in diameter and 7–13 cm in depth and spread across the underlying surface (A7:13). The custom of piling ashes against the sides of a cooking installation has a long history; it was seen at the Ammonite site of Tall Jawa in Room 212, where a horseshoe-shaped oven (B34:54) and Partition Wall 2039 flanked a 60.0 cm deep ash accumulation (B34:24+26) that helped to retain the heat level in the oven (Daviau 2003:188; fig. 6:26). Traditional *tawabin* in operation in Jordan and Syria today are also covered in ash to prevent heat loss (Mulder-Hijmans 2008: fig. 4; Daviau 2016:468).

Table 3A. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIIB surfaces and cooking areas

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Registered finds</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
(W+E) A1:36+7:9/13 surface	13 ceramic sherds	1 diagnostic sherd	
(S)A8:15+A6:22 soil	8 ceramic sherds	none	
(W)A1:41,42,43 Oven and ash on surface	34 ceramic sherds	2 diagnostic sherds	
(S)A6:23,26 bedrock	1 ceramic sherd	none	flat-lying pottery?
(S)A7:8+A8:13 cobble surface	<i>ca.</i> 250 ceramic sherds	16 diagnos- tic sherds	possible contamination
(W)A1:45 bedrock	grinder	WT 467 ¹	basalt
(W)A1:44 oven	<i>arcularia</i> , holed	WT 549	shell
A7:8+A8:13 cobble surface	193 animal bones		fragments

¹ Registration number changed subsequent to Dolan (2007:107); for inscribed stone WT 559 ([Chapter 13](#))

To the south of these features was a compact surface formed of small cobbles, pebbles and soil (A7:8 = A8:13; [Fig. 3.4b](#) insert), 1.90 m (E–W) × 2.35 m (N/S), which rested in turn on beaten earth Surface A7:13 ([Fig. 3.4b](#)). The function of this stone surface in relation to the cooking installations is unclear. It did not extend west to join either Surface A6:22 or A1:36. The fact that the ovens on the west side were footed on bedrock, whereas ovens A7:12 and A7:14 to the east were embedded in beaten earth Surface A7:9 = A7:13, is also notable. What is likely, however, is that the bedrock was sloping in this area making a prepared surface

necessary.

Evidence for ritual behaviour

In order to understand the function of these four ovens, an examination of the finds associated with them should prove productive.³ However, only a handful of sherds was within the ash (A1:43) that filled Oven A1:44 and scattered on Surface A1:42, while 2 diagnostic and 27 body sherds were in the ashes in Oven A1:41. Embedded in the fissures between the stones of A1:45, there was a complete basalt handstone, while in the area to the south (A6:22, 23) pottery was scarce, with no diagnostic sherds.

The pottery (Fig. 3.5)

Assigning firm dates to pottery from northern Moab is limited by the lack of deeply stratified sites with securely dated levels. Nevertheless, the presentation of the pottery in the various levels of WT-13 is related to the activities carried out at the site and constitutes an assemblage that can be re-evaluated in future. Within the identifiable diagnostic sherd material from both oven areas, the cobble pavement, and the soil and bedrock areas to the south, there were 7 bowls, 3 kraters, 3 cooking pots, 2 jugs and 4 juglets, of which 2 were base sherds.⁴ This ceramic assemblage was chronologically mixed with examples of late Iron I forms as well as Iron IIA vessels. Certain vessels were covered with a thin white slip, a typical early Iron Age surface treatment, found on a small carinated bowl (A1/87.1; Fig. 3.5:2) and a vertical rim krater (A8/27.1; Fig. 3.5:7), which have Iron IIA parallels at Hazor (Garfinkel and Greenberg 1997: fig. III.21:2) and Hesban (Herr 2012: fig. 2.21:9; 2.14:3), as well as in the 9th century at Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2013: fig. 21:2). Bowls (Fig. 3.5:5) and kraters (Figs. 3.7:14–16; 3.14:19) with floppy knob or ledge handles share this handle style with large shallow bowls (mansaf bowls) found at Tall Dayr Alla (Franken 1969: fig. 68:1) and with deep bowls/

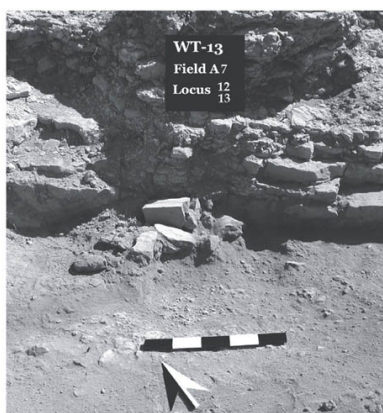
kraters at Tall ʿAraʿir on the Wadi Mujib (Olávarri 1965: fig. 2:1) and at Tall al-Khalayfa (Pratico 1993: pl. 34:5, 6). At WT-13, these vessels were mixed with the well-known Iron IIB Ammonite cooking pot with a folded rim (Fig. 3.5:9) known at Tall Jawa (Daviau 2003: fig.12.4:1) and Tall al-ʿUmayri (Herr and Clark 2008: fig. 10:14, 16–18). The same time range (late Iron I–Iron IIB) is extended by the presence of a Cypro-Geometric Black-on-Red juglet (Fig. 3.5:13; Chapter 7). The pottery was accompanied by one fine-grain basalt hand grinder (WT 467; Fig. 3.5:14) and a holed *Nassarius (arcularia)* shell (WT 549; Fig. 3.5:15). The faunal material numbers 193 fragments in the surface loci.



a



b



c

Figure 3.3. a) Angle formed by west and north scarp faces showing position of cooking ovens, with detail of Oven A1:41; b) cooking installation A1:44 on fractured bedrock, looking northeast; c) cooking installation A7:12 against north scarp

This small corpus of pottery, objects and ecofacts is insufficient to identify multiple rituals, apart from cooking and eating. This dearth of finds within the ash surrounding the ovens is not unusual; for example, in Room 102 + 202 at Tall Jawa, there were only a handful of animal bones, 133 ceramic sherds and one cooking pot in an area with six ovens (Daviau 2003:165–172).



a



b

Figure 3.4. a) Packed soil above decomposing bedrock, in foreground; later fill and temenos wall in background; b) ash-stained surface (A7:13) under eastern cooking installations A7:12 and 10 with detail of cobble surface (A8:13)

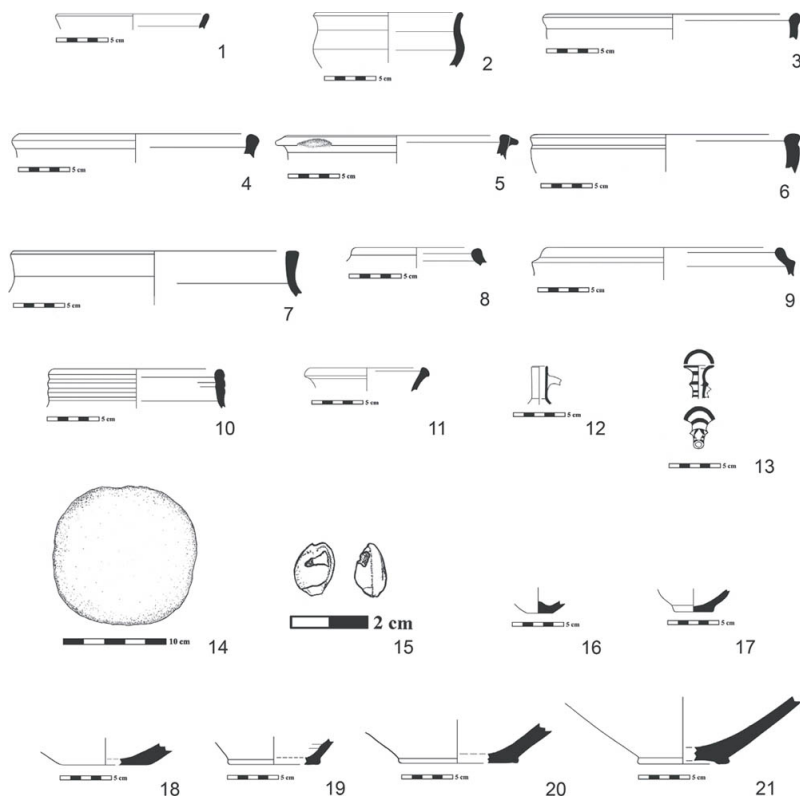


Figure 3.5. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIIB surfaces and cooking areas

Figure 3.5 Pottery and objects from Stratum IIIB surfaces and cooking areas

1. (A8/25.4). Carinated bowl; D 14.4 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
2. (A1/87.1). Carinated bowl; D 14.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, gray core, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.
3. (A1/87.2). Bowl, thickened rim; D 26.0 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
4. (A8/25.5). Bowl, thickened rim; D 22.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior, gray core.
5. (A1/86.1). Bowl rim + knob; 20.5 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) fabric and exterior.

6. (A8/25.11). Bowl, undercut rim; D 25.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
7. (A8/27.1). Krater, flattened rim; D 26.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) exterior slip.
8. (A8/25.3). Cooking pot, sloping rim; D 11.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
9. (A8/25.12). Cooking pot, folded rim; D 22.0 cm; very dark gray (5YR 3/1) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6) exterior.
10. (A8/25.7). Cooking pot, ribbed rim; D 15.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 4/6) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
11. (A8/25.6). Jug; D 10.8 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.
12. (A8/25.2). Miniature juglet; D 1.4 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
13. (A8/25.1). Juglet, Cypriot Black-on-Red; rim D 2.6, int neck D 2.7 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) levigated fabric and exterior, black (N 2.5/) painted bands.
14. WT 467 (A1:45/84). Hand grinder; D 13.6, T 11.6; basalt; Madaba Museum.
15. WT 549 (A1:43/83). *Nassarius*; L 1.3, W 0.9 cm; shell.
16. (A8/25.8). Juglet, flat base; D 2.6 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, dark gray core, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
17. (A7/22.1). Juglet, disc base; D 4.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
18. (A8/25.10). Bowl, flat base; D 8.4 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.
19. (A8/25.9). Jug, disc base; D 9.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, white (2.5Y 8/1) exterior slip.
20. (A8/25.13). Krater, disc base; D 11.2 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
21. (A8/25.14). Krater, flattened ring base; D 8.8 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

For Stratum IIIB, the ovens provide the focal point for an analysis of possible ritual activity. The paucity of finds and their distribution pattern in and around the ovens does not yield sufficient evidence for a fuller interpretation, although pottery and artefacts in the overlying ash may contribute to a better understanding of how the ovens were used. At present, the commonality of function among these cooking installations suggests that these features were in use at the same time and discontinued in a single event. The concentration of cooking areas outside and somewhat separate from a major town suggests a specialized function for WT-13 during Stratum IIIB. Since Lipovitch ([Chapter 9](#)) has determined that evidence for slaughter at this location is lacking, the finds imply a decision to carry food stuffs, including meat, up the hill to the cooking area and to prepare and cook these foods on site. The ceramic material associated with these activities is primarily utilitarian,⁵ with the result that the ovens themselves and the setting remain our primary clues to the rituals performed in this space.

The immediate setting included Cistern WT-13/1 (see Figs. 14.1; 14.2b, 14.3, below), slightly downhill between WT-13 and al-Rumayl, and two natural depressions in the exposed bedrock above the ovens with signs of smoothing or modification. There was no evidence that these features were utilized at the same time as the cooking area, although they are natural features in the bedrock that were enhanced at some time for use by people active at WT-13.⁶ With the number of bowls and kraters in the surrounding ash, the proximity of water for food preparation would certainly have been desirable.

The nature of the ritual depends to a certain extent on the relationship of WT-13 and the town of al-Rumayl, which was occupied at this time. The surface pottery from al-Rumayl is predominantly Iron IIA–B, but there is also some pottery that appears to be earlier, late Iron I. For example, the gray slipped collared pithos rim ([Fig. 14.13:1](#)), a gray ware type common at

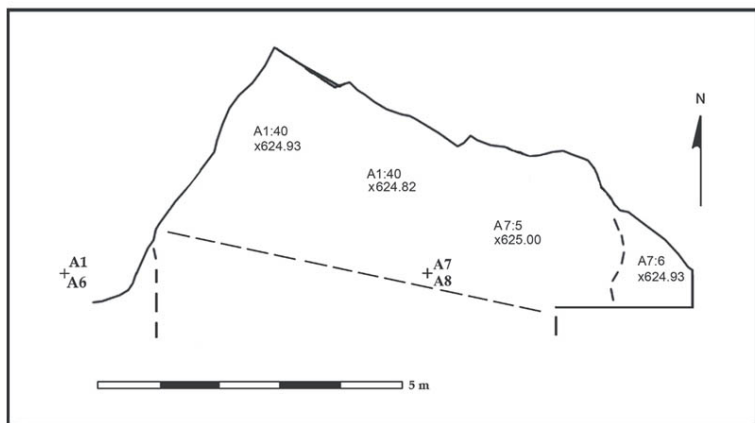
Tall Jawa, is earlier than much of the pottery from WT-13. More in keeping with the Stratum III assemblage are the large incurving rim bowls (Fig. 14.13:2–4) and tall flaring rim kraters (Fig. 14.14:2) at al-Rumayl. Assuming that these two sites were contemporary, at least for part of the time, we can imagine several possible functions for WT-13. Without excavation at al-Rumayl, these suppositions are tentative; indeed, whether a meal was cooked and consumed at WT-13 or whether the food was cooked there and returned to al-Rumayl is unclear. However, the paucity of storejars at WT-13 when compared to a domestic site and the complete lack of pithoi suggest a site that was used occasionally, rather than continuously. Secondly, the integrity of the ceramic assemblage may have been compromised if some vessels were returned to al-Rumayl – however this would depend on the character of the ritual performed and on associated food taboos.

The presence of animal bones, bowls and kraters suggests that the food was prepared and consumed on site. There are several possible explanations for this behaviour. On the one hand, this unique ritual site may have been related to special or seasonal festivals, such as the time of animal reproduction or of harvest.⁷ On the other, we must consider the fact that WT-13 is in view of al-Rumayl (see Figs. 14.1; 14.11) and overlooks nearly 40 caves and rock-cut tombs surrounding the town. Two tombs are of special interest, WT-18/2 with its stone framed entrance and inner room (Fig. 14.14) and WT-18/18, a tomb with multiple stone-carved chambers (Fig. 14.22). It is noteworthy that in his table of cultic places, Schmitt (2014:279–281) identifies two cultic areas that have ovens as their only permanent installation; his Type IA, domestic cult by the nuclear family in the home, and Type IV, places for the care of the dead.⁸ Given that WT-13 is not a site isolated from settlements and thus more typical of regional gathering centers, the finds and features of Stratum III suggest that rituals related to funerary customs were carried out by the local inhabitants. Feasts were typical of funerals and commemorative

meals (see [Chapter 15](#)), while ritual feeding of the dead is well represented in Middle Bronze and Iron Age tombs (Kenyon 1965; Dornemann 1983), both by the pottery and the food remains present in the tomb (Baker 1995:219). The iconography of the deceased feasting, often in the presence of family members, was well known throughout the region, especially in Egyptian iconography. Feasting of the dead is also illustrated in Iron Age Syrian art (Aramaean and Neo-Hittite), as in the stela of Katumuwa at Sam'al (Zincirli; Suriano 2014).



a



b

Figure 3.6. a) Ash layer A1:40, looking northeast; b) area of ash layer A1:40 + A7:5

Decommissioning and abandonment (Stratum IIIA)

The western ovens were covered with a thick layer of loose ashy soil (A1:40), filling the cooking area and spreading onto the bedrock around it (Fig. 3.6a, b). This layer, measuring 0.14–0.23 m deep above the ovens, contained 1238 sherds and 537 bone

fragments. A similar pattern is found in association with the installations in the eastern sector, where a deep ash, pebble and soil accumulation (A7:5; 0.23–0.32 m deep), apparently an extension of A1:40, also contained a considerable amount of faunal material (892 fragments), as well as 930 ceramic sherds and a small number of objects. This filling operation appeared to be restricted to the area above the ovens and did not extend to the south, where later fill operations covered the bedrock and hard-packed surface in that area (A6:22, 23, 26; [Fig. 3.2b](#)).

The vessels in this ash layer, along with the faunal material, point predominantly to food preparation and secondarily to food consumption activities (see [Chapter 15](#) for additional discussion). In contrast to the ash around the ovens, the deep layer of soil, ash, pebbles, broken pottery and animal bones that constitutes Ash A1:40+A7:5 is similar to the composition of a dump on the northeast slope of Mudayna Thamad, from which thousands of potsherds, *tabun* fragments, artefacts and animal bones have been recovered ([Table 3B](#)). On the slopes of WT-13, there are no remains of such a dump for Stratum III, with the result that the source of this accumulation remains uncertain. Nevertheless, given the number of cooking pot sherds, this ash layer appears to be related to cooking activities carried out during Stratum IIIB. What is certain is that the introduction of this material above the cooking installations effectively decommissioned the ritual site framed by the scarp. This practice of deliberate covering of ritual features and artefacts is well-known at temple sites throughout the Middle and Late Bronze Ages in Palestine and Transjordan, as seen in the recent study by Ward (2014) with special emphasis on the temple sequence at Pella. A similar process was also employed at el-Burnat (Mount Ebal) to effectively decommission the Stratum IB structure (Zertal 1986–87:124, 156).

Table 3B. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIIA ash layer

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
(W+E)	2168 ceramic	144 diagnostic	
A1:40+A7:5	sherds	sherds	
	shell fragment	WT 497	<i>Charonia/Lambis</i>
	fossil	WT 540	trochiform gastropod
	2 stone bowls	WT 530, 544	limestone
	3 spindle whorls	WT 547, 548, 570	reworked sherds, broken
	1429 animal bones		fragments

Figure 3.7. Bowls from Stratum IIIA Ash Layer A1:40 + A7:5

1. (A1/71.11). Simple rim; D 11.6 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.
2. (A7/19.9). Simple rim; D 10.6 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.
3. (A1/72.14). Simple rim; D 16.6 cm; pink (10YR 7/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.
4. (A1/72.16). Simple rim; D 17.8 (colours undetermined).
5. (A7/8.14). Hemspherical bowl, simple rim; D 16.0 cm; very pale brown fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior slip, weak red (10R 5/4) paint.
6. (A1/72.12). Flaring rim D 13.6 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, pink (2.5YR 8/4) exterior.
7. (A1/77.14). Flaring rim D 13.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
8. (A1/72.10). Flaring rim; D 15.0 cm; light red (10R 6/8) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) exterior.
9. (A1/78.17). Flaring rim D 19.8 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
10. (A1/77.13). Carinated bowl, flaring rim; D 15.0 cm;

light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.

11. (A7/19.12). Carinated bowl, flaring rim; D 15.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4–8/3) fabric and exterior.

12. (A1/71.10). Flaring rim; D 23.0 cm; gray (2.5Y 5/1) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.

13. (A7/19.16). Thickened, flaring rim; D 22.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4) slip.

14. (A7/18.10). Thickened, flaring rim; D 21.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

15. (A1/72.2). Thickened, flaring rim; D 17.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/3) exterior.

16. (A7/18.16). Bent-sided, rolled rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

17. (A1/72.9). Flattened, triangular rim; D 21.4 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) exterior.

18. (A7/18.12). Incurving rim; D 27.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior, 10YR 8/2) slip.

19. (A1/71.1). Thickened rim; D 22.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) slip.

20. (A1/77.17). Thickened, incurving rim; D 20.8 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/3) exterior.

21. (A7/25.1). Incurving rim; D 20.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior slip

22. (A7/20.1). Triangular incurving rim; D 23.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

23. (A1/78.16). Triangular incurving, rim; D 22.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.

24. (A1/71.8). Thickened incurving rim; D 21.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

25. (A1/70.5). Thickened rim; D 20.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

26. (A1/70.8). Deep bowl; D 20.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

27. (A7/9.6). Bowl base, incised. D 4.7 cm; crisp gray (10YR 6/1) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/1) exterior.

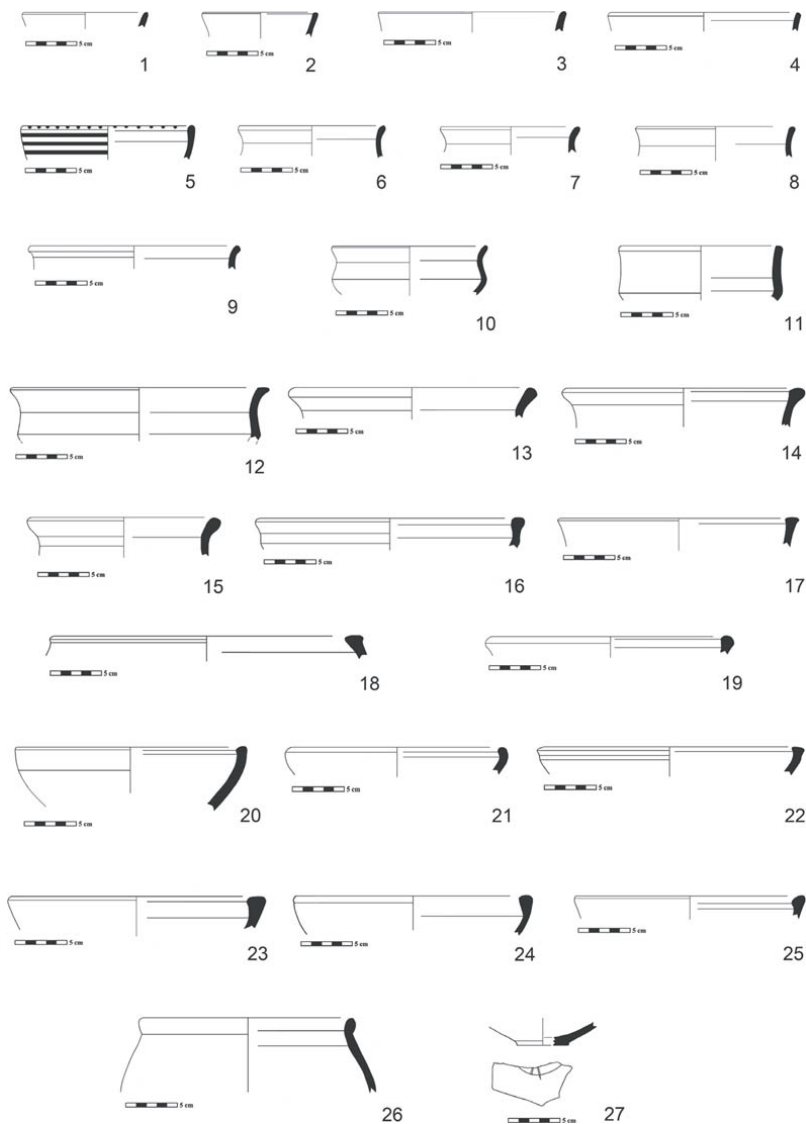


Figure 3.7. Bowls from Stratum IIIA ash layer A1:40 + A7:5

Figure 3.8. Kraters and Large Bowls from Stratum IIIA Ash

Layer A1:40 + A7:5

1. (A1/71.17). Flattened, vertical rim; D 26.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) exterior.
2. (A1/70.9). Thickened, flaring rim; D 26.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior.
3. (A7/18.8). Thickened, flaring rim; D 30.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.
4. (A1/72.19). Carinated krater, thickened rim; D 30.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
5. (A7/9.9). T-shaped rim; D 26.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
6. (A7/18.2). Folded rim; D 28.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4–7/3) fabric and exterior.
7. (A7/18.9). Incurving rim; D 28.0; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.
8. (A7/8.13). Incurving rim; D 28.8 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.
9. (A7/8.8). Flattened, triangular rim; D 21.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) exterior.
10. (A7/9.3). Thickened, incurving rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior.
11. (A7/19.14). Flattened ribbed rim; D 20.0 cm; gray (2.5Y 5/1) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
12. (A7/19.15). Round rim; D 19.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
13. A7/19.11). Flattened triangular rim, D 15.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.
14. (A1/78.11). Thickened rim+knob; D 37.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior slip.
15. (A1/89.1). Triangular, everted rim+knob; D 38.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.
16. (A1/77.15). Basin(?), Squared rim+knob; D 33.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

Figure 3.9. Cooking pots from Stratum IIIA Ash Layer A1:40 + A7:5

1. (A1/70.1). short folded rim; D 18.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
2. (A1/77.2). triangular rim; D 13.5 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 5/3) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
3. (A1/72.24). folded rim; D 16.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
4. (A1/71.2). folded rim; D 20.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.
5. (A1/70.12). triangular rim; D 11.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, dark gray core, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
6. (A7/19.1). thickened rim with ridge; D 14.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.
7. (A7/19.8). thickened rim with ridge; D 16.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
8. (A7/8.5). thickened rim with ridge; D 17.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3) exterior.
9. (A1/70.6). thickened rim with ridge; D 16.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 6/2) exterior.
10. (A7/8.23). thickened rim with rib; D 26.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior
11. (A7/8.2). thickened rim with rib; D 28.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
12. (A7/8.4). thickened rim with rib; D 22.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior
13. (A7/8.1). thickened rim with prominent ridge; D 30.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 5/4) exterior.
14. (A7/18.13). thickened rim; D 13.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/3) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.
15. (A1/71.3). vertical ridged rim; D 19.0 cm; reddish

brown (2.5YR5/3) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.

16. (A7/19.2). incurving ribbed rim; D 16.0 cm; red (10YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.

17. (A7/18.14). vertical thickened rim; D 9.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

18. (A1/72.17). rounded vertical rim; D 13.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) exterior.

19. (A7/19.10). thickened rim; D 12.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.

20. (A1/78.1). folded vertical rim; D 9.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.

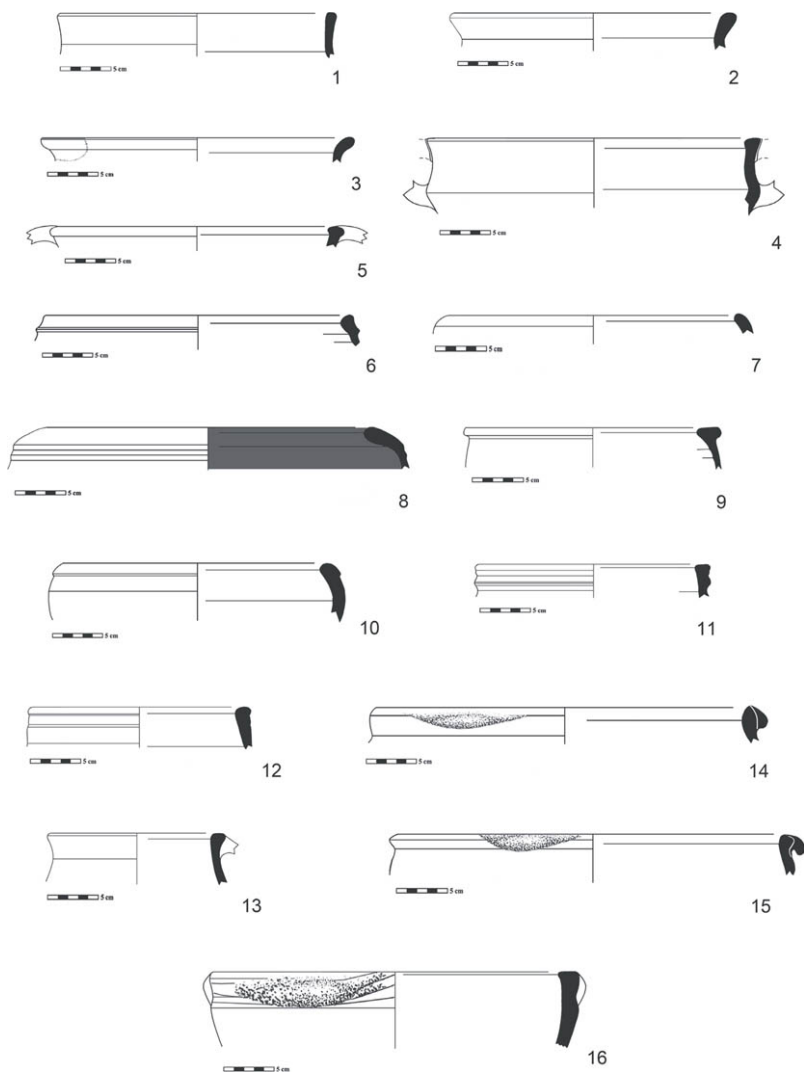


Figure 3.8. Kraters and large bowls from ash layer A1:40 + A7:5

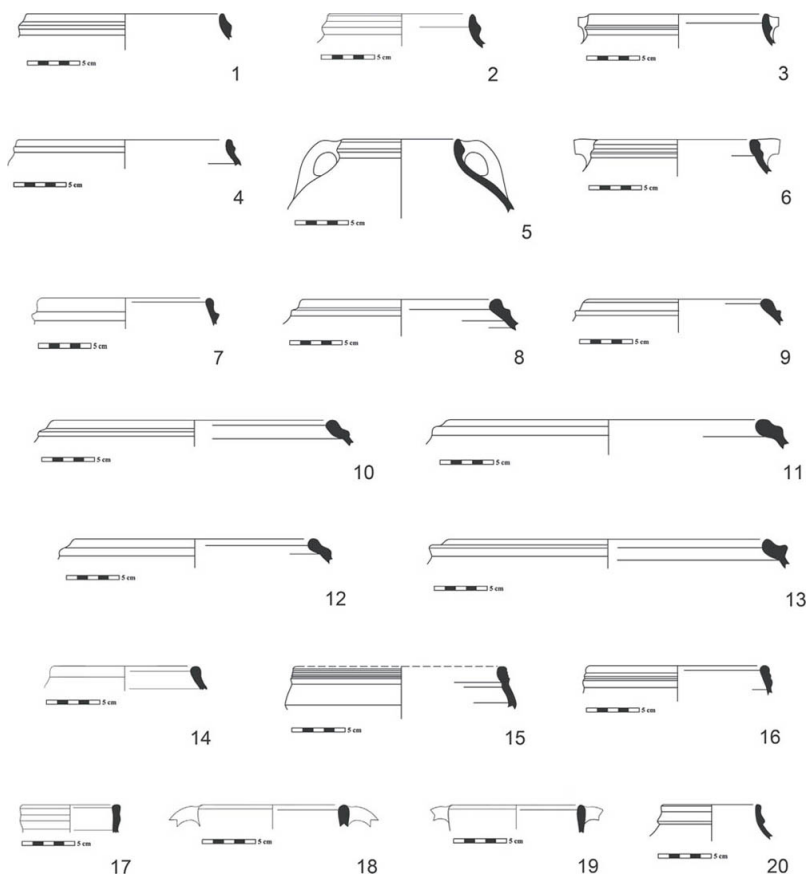


Figure 3.9. Cooking pots from ash layer 1:40 + A7:5

Figure 3.10. Jugs, Juglets, and Bases from Stratum IIIA Ash Layer A1:40 + A7:5

1. (A1/77.9). Jug, thickened rim; D 7.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) slip.
2. (A7/9.7). Jug, thickened rim; D 8.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4) slip.
3. (A7/9.4). Jug, thickened rim; D 7.0 cm; pink (5YR 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.
4. (A7/9.1). Juglet, flaring rim; D 9.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) throughout.

5. (A7/8.3). Juglet, thickened rim; D 6.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.
6. (A1/76.7). Miniature black juglet, simple rim; D 3.0 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric, very dark gray (N 3/) exterior.
7. (A1/70.17). Miniature juglet, painted shoulder; max body D 7.5 cm; pale red (10R 6/4) fabric and exterior, very dark gray (N 3/) paint.
8. (A1/71.9). Jug sherd; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior, dark gray (7.5YR 4/1) and red (10R 5/8) paint.
9. (A1/71.7). Juglet, round base; body D *ca.* 9.5 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/3) exterior slip.
10. (A7/9.10). Juglet, flat base; D 3.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
11. (A7/8.11). Jug, disc base; D 9.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
12. (A1/78/2). Storejar, round base; D *ca.* 14.5 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
13. (A7/8.6). Krater, ring base; D 8.5 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
14. (A1/70.10). Bowl, disc base. D 12.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, white (10YR 8/1) slip.

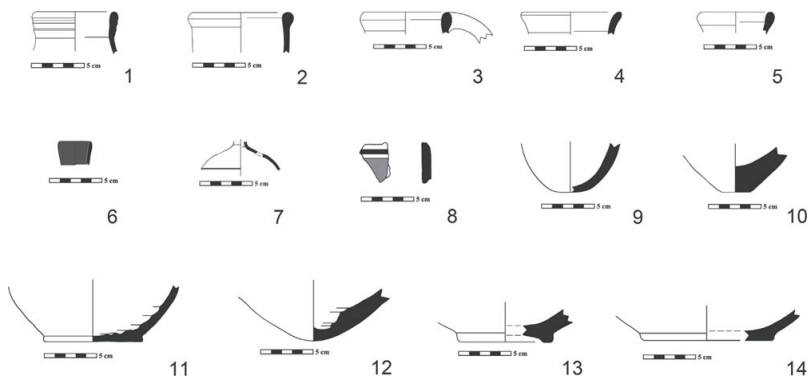


Figure 3.10. Jugs, juglets and bases from ash layer 1:40 + A7:5

Figure 3.11. Objects from Stratum IIIA Ash Layer A1:40 + A7:5

1. WT 497, shell fragment, *Charonia* (see [chapter 10](#)).
2. WT 540, fossil, gastropod (see [chapter 10](#)).
3. WT 570 (A1:40/72). Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; D 7.3, T 1.4, perforation D 2.4 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) exterior, pink (7.5YR 7/3) interior; broken.
4. WT 547 (A7:5/8). Spindle whorl, reworked sherd, perforated; D 5.6, T 1.1 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior, light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) interior; broken.
5. WT 548 (A7:5/9). Spindle whorl, reworked sherd, perforated; D 6.5, T 1.2 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior, red (2.5YR 5/6) interior; broken.
6. WT 544 (A1:40/70). Limestone bowl; D 11.5 cm; broken.
7. WT 530 (A1:40/70). Limestone bowl; D 27.0, H 10.8, int Dpt 7.5 cm; broken.

The cessation of these food preparation rituals in Stratum III and their replacement with built architecture and intensive cultic activity in Stratum II, featuring a wide variety of votive offerings and iconographic representation, point to a major cultural change. Due to the lack of excavation at nearby al-Rumayl, we cannot say whether its inhabitants were responsible for covering the ovens at WT-13 or if the town also underwent a similar cultural change at the same time. What is apparent is that the ash layer was related to or derived from the earlier cooking activities and that the ovens had not been exposed to windblown soil over an extended period before they were covered.

Pottery and chronology

The diagnostic sherds from the Stratum IIIA ash layer represent a minimum of 42 bowls, 22 kraters, 22 cooking pots, 24 jugs, and smaller numbers of juglets (4), miniatures (10), and one lamp, along with a basin, a storejar (base sherd), one storejar rim⁹ and

one miscellaneous spout.¹⁰ The most notable ceramic types represented in these two Stratum III phases yield some chronological indicators that may be used to situate both the use period of the ovens and their abandonment (see [Chapter 6](#), early assemblage). Small carinated bowls ([Fig. 3.7:10](#)) are found here and in later strata and have parallels at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Muḥarraja (Olávarri 1977–78: fig. 2:4–6).¹¹ Incurving rim bowls ([Fig. 3.7:20, 21](#)) are well represented at Late Iron I sites, such as Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Muḥarraja (Olávarri 1983: Fig. 6:2), Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Ḥaliya (Routledge 2008: fig. 5:2), Mount Ebal (Zertal 1986–1987: figs. 11:1–3; 14:5; 16:2; 17:3, 4), and Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: figs. 6.52:3; 6.60:2; of note is that ¹⁴C data from Stratum V at Shiloh dates to the 11th century [Finkelstein and Piasezky 2006: fig. 2, table 4]).¹² The Mount Ebal assemblage appears to be earlier than that at WT-13, which is closer to Taḥanach Period IIA and IIB (Rast 1978: figs. 24:9, 7; 64:1). Although simple round-bodied bowls are characteristic of Iron I at several sites in central Jordan, such as Tall al-Ḥumayri (Clark 1997: fig. 4.25:20), Tall Jawa (Daviau, in preparation; Fig. 3.1:3) and al-Rumayl (WT18-R/23.2, 7; WT18-R/52.2; [Fig. 14.13:4–6](#)),¹³ the gray ware fabric and chalky white slip known in Ammon are not present at WT-13. For the thick-walled flattened rim bowl ([Fig. 3.7:22](#)), Taḥanach provides an Iron II parallel (Rast 1978: fig. 71:2).

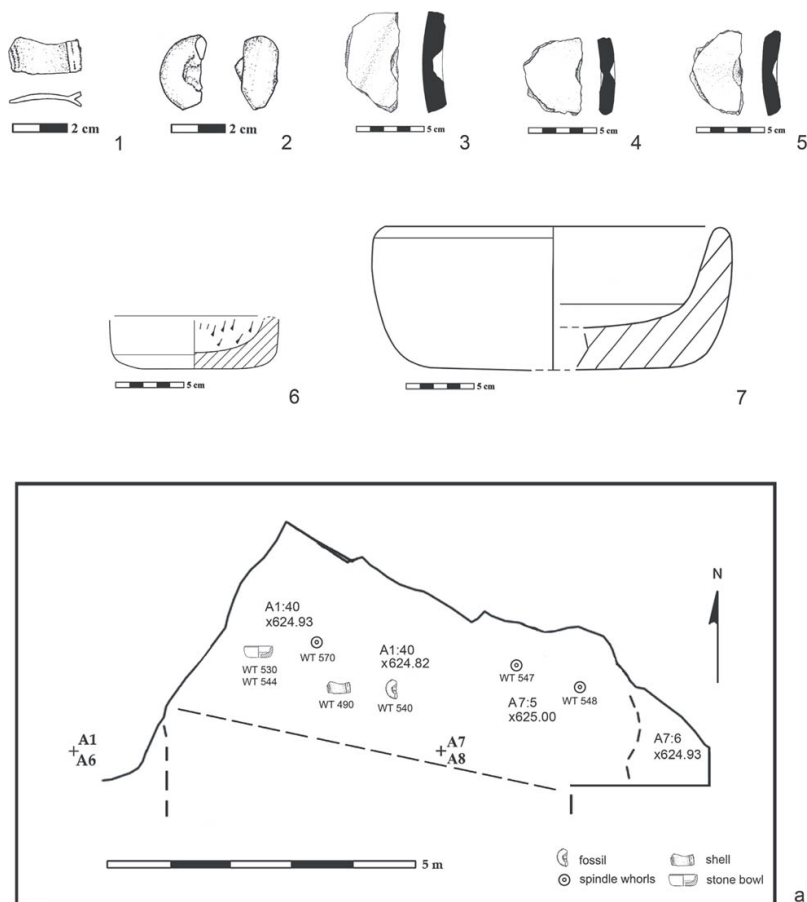


Figure 3.11. 1–7) Objects from ash layer A1:40 + A7:5; a) distribution of objects within ash layer A1:40 + A7:5

Thin-walled bowls are more difficult to locate chronologically, since they occur throughout the Iron Age. Among the four simple rim bowls (Fig. 3.7:1–4), the two smaller vessels have parallels at Dhibân (Tushingham 1972: fig. 2:11, 12). Thin-walled flaring rim bowls and vertical rim kraters (Figs. 3.7:12; 3.8:1) have parallels at Tall al-ʿUmayri (Clark 1997: fig. 4.25:14, 15) and at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Muʿarraja (Olávarri 1977–78: fig. 2:19). Less common is the deep bowl with short upright/flaring rim (Fig. 3.7:26) that has parallels at Tall Dayr ʿAlla

(Groot 2009: fig. 4:1) and Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:67). Adding to the mixture of ceramic forms are those sherds which testify to a certain amount of contamination from the upper fill layers, such as a painted hemispherical bowl sherd (Fig. 3.7:5) with two mends in soil layers assigned to Stratum IIC.

Ribbed rim kraters with a flattened lip, such as A7/19.14 (Fig. 3.8:11) are also known at Hazor (Garfinkel and Greenberg 1997: fig. III.41:7), Khirbet el-ʿUrma (Finkelstein *et al.* 1997: fig. 7.326:22), Tall Jawa (Daviau, in preparation), al-Rumayl (Fig. 14.14:4), and in the Iron IIB pottery from Dhībān (Winnett and Reed 1964: pl. 72:4). Pointing to the Iron I–IIA transition and Iron II is the presence of several thick-walled carinated kraters (Fig. 3.8:4, 6) that share formal features with Iron I kraters from Cave A4 in the Baqʿah Valley (McGovern 1986: fig. 51:24, 28) and from Tall al-ʿUmayri (Clark 1997: fig. 4.25:12), as well as with vessels in the hill country at Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: fig. 6.60:3). These Iron I features may reflect a long lasting regional tradition since comparable kraters are found also in association with Iron II vessels that were present around the ovens and in the overlying ash. Such a krater is part of the late 8th century BC assemblage at Kadesh Barnea (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pl. 50:20). Other kraters include thickened, flaring rim vessels, such as A1/70.9 (Fig. 3.8:2) that are assigned to Iron I–II in the Dothan Valley Survey at Site 11 (Joret ʿAmer) (Zertal 2004: fig. 43:3), and a round-bodied thickened rim krater or large bowl (Fig. 3.8:10) with parallels at Tall Madaba (Harrison *et al.* 2003: fig. 4:12) and Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2013: fig. 22:5). Of special note is a sherd with white slip on the exterior (Fig. 3.8:8) that reflects a transitional form between the incurving thickened rim krater from Dhībān (Winnett and Reed 1964: pl. 76:3) and Tall Jawa (Stratum IX, early Iron II) and the inverted rectangular rim krater at Tall Jawa (Strata VIII–VII, Iron II–late Iron II) and at other Ammonite sites, such as Jalul (pers. observation) and Tall al-ʿUmayri (Herr and Clark 2008: fig. 7:9).

This Iron II form also appears at Tall al-Khalayfa (Pratico 1993: pls. 22, 23) and as far south in Sinai as Kadesh Barnea (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pl. 55:4), where it appears with a red slip. A single example of a T-shaped rim krater (Fig. 3.8:9) is similar to a large painted krater with four handles from Stratum XII at Hazor with a sharply everted rim nearly rectangular in profile (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. CCI:9) and to Iron Age IIA–IIB kraters at Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:61), Tell Abu Kharaz (Fischer 2013: fig. 69:8), and to a grooved rim krater from Kadesh Barnea (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pl. 67:24). Among the kraters and basins, those with large pendant knobs (Fig. 3.8:14–16) occur in Strata IIIB and IIC at WT-13 (see below); these vessels have parallels in the Iron II pottery at Dhībān (Winnett and Reed 1964: pl. 76:15; Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:57), Balua (Crowfoot 1934: Pl. II, fig. 2:11, 14), 9th century Khirbat en-Nahas (Smith and Levy 2008: fig. 12:11) and Tall Madaba.¹⁴

Both wide-mouth and narrow-neck cooking pots are present in the assemblage, including pots with a small sub-triangular rim, formed by a concave depression between the lip and the lower ridge (Fig. 3.9:1–5) that has a parallel at Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:21). The narrow-necked jar (Fig. 3.9:5) appears to be common in northern Moab, found at both Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Mu‘arrāja (Olávarri 1977–78: fig. 2:2; 1983: fig. 6:4, 5) and Khirbat al-Mudayna al-‘Aliya (Routledge 2008: fig. 6:2). Ribbed rim pots with a long thickened rim occur frequently at Tall al-‘Umayri (Herr 2014: fig. 2:8) and are found at Hesban (Herr 2012: fig. 2.17:18) and Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:32). While Herr (2014:211) assigns this form to Iron I, it appears at Tall Jawa, southeast of Tall al-‘Umayri, as an intermediary form between the triangular cooking pot rims and the folded rim sloping sided pots of Iron IIB (Daviau, in preparation). There are several styles of folded rim pots (Fig. 3.9:10–12), some close in form to well-known Ammonite-style pots (Daviau 2003: fig. 12.4:1; Petit 2009a: fig. 10.14:12), as well as to similar forms at Dhībān (Tushingham

1972: fig. 1:18) and Type A pots from Busayra (Bienkowski *et al.* 2002: fig. 9.38:1–10). Other examples of folded rim pots are from Tall Mādabā (Harrison *et al.* 2000: fig. 9:18; 2003:5:21), northwest of WT-13, and from Khirbet el-Marajim in the Samaria hills (Finkelstein *et al.* 1997: fig. 8.317: 5), suggesting a widespread distribution of this form. Less common at WT-13 is a folded rim with a pronounced ridge at the base of the rim (Fig. 3.9:13), although this form is known from Hazor in the north (Garfinkel and Greenberg 1997: fig. III. 32:24) to Tel Malḥata in the south (Freud 2015: fig. 4.60:14). Conversely, no square-rimmed Moabite cooking pot sherds are present in Stratum III at WT-13. Other well-known vessel types from Iron IIA–B include a black juglet and a miniature painted juglet (Fig. 3.10:6, 7: see Chapter 7).

Given the mix of periods evident in the bowl categories, it is important to note that other classic Iron I forms, such as wide-mouth triangular rim cooking pots, collared pithoi (Herr 2001)¹⁵ and gray ware jugs (Clark 1991: fig. 4.7:15) are not represented in the WT-13 corpus.¹⁶

The ceramic evidence suggests that Stratum III probably went out of use during Iron IIA. Although we might look to the political changes in the region to explain the end of Stratum III, such as the consolidation of this region with Moab by Mesha the Daibonite in the mid-9th century,¹⁷ other possible economic, political and cultural changes in this region during the 10th–8th centuries¹⁸ may be possible explanations.

The stratigraphy of Stratum II

The first stage in the creation of a ritual space in Stratum II consisted of the build-up of soil layers in the depression formed by the scarp. These construction layers (Stratum IIC) were installed up to the level of the bedrock surface on the west. This preparation phase is clear in the stratigraphy, since the series of fill layers were located exclusively above and beyond the ashy soil layer covering the decommissioned ovens of Stratum III. This

preparation phase was followed by the construction of walls forming a temenos and its subsequent use as a cultic structure (Stratum IIB). A later remodelling of the shrine in Stratum IIA marks a period of continued use.

Preparation phase (Stratum IIC, Fig. 3.12)

The levelling operation that filled the area east of the west scarp consisted of a series of soil and stone layers that would serve as a support for the east wall (W1103) of the intended temenos area. Within the excavated squares, the layers of fill extended east from the west scarp for a length of 13.50 m and south from the north scarp for a distance of 3.80–7.50 m. At its eastern extremity, bedrock was sealed against and partially covered by natural soil (A8:11; Fig. 3.1b) devoid of pottery. This soil was now sealed by a packed earth layer (A8:10) that was up to 0.37 m deep in places. Contrary to the underlying soil, this layer contained 41 Iron Age sherds, suggesting that it was disturbed or added to during Stratum IIC. Extending south from the north scarp was a thick cobble, pebble and soil layer (A7:3; 0.20–0.25 m thick), mixed with a bit of ash from the underlying Stratum III ash layer. To the south, the cobbles thinned and were replaced by a 0.18–0.34 m thick soil layer (A8:7), which was only exposed in a limited area, but contained 218 randomly scattered Iron Age sherds.

The layer of compressed cobbles (A7:3+A1:38; Fig. 3.12a) was exposed for *ca.* 6.00 m east–west and reached a maximum width of 4.00 m covering ash layer A1:40. As it extended west, it blended with a hard-packed soil and pebble layer (A1:39; 2.50 E–W × 1.75 N–S) that extended over the western sector and, as Layer A1:33+A6:9, covered the bedrock and packed soil surface (A6:23; Fig. 3.4a) to the south. In contrast to the ash layer above the cooking areas, these additional fills were of varying textures: hard-packed soil (A1:33=A1:39); compressed cobble layer (A1:38=A7:3; A6:9=A6:18); and crumbly, rubbly soil (A8:7). The source of this material and of the large amount of Iron Age II

pottery and artefacts (Table 3C) was not determined during excavation.

The pottery is more diverse in these fill loci than in the ash of Stratum IIIA. Along with bowls, kraters and cooking pots, there is a chalice, a cup, storage vessels, and an increase in the number of juglets. In addition, miniature vessels and tripod cups make their appearance (Fig. 3.16:23; Chart 3.1; see also, Chapter 7). Late Iron I–Early Iron II forms continue, especially in the form of thick-walled incurving rim bowls and kraters (Figs. 3.13:9, 19, 21; 3.14:9–11) and flaring rim carinated forms (Fig. 3.13:3, 4). The fabrics of these vessels reflect diverse potting traditions, seen especially in the choice of inclusions, ranging from chert and calcite to basalt and other stone sources. Simple round bodied bowls are also found in several sizes at el-Balu‘ (Worschech 2014: figs. E 047–049).

Table 3C. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIC fill

<i>Locus</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A1:38+A7:3	1996 ceramic sherds	180 diagnostic sherds	
A1:33,39; A6:9,16,17,18	2801 ceramic sherds	198 diagnostic sherds	
A8:7,10	259 ceramic sherds	8 diagnostic sherds	
	beads	WT 446,517	faience, glass
	figurine head	WT 524	ceramic
	enthroned figurine	WT 484	limestone
	architectural model	WT 503	ceramic
	cowrie shells	WT 445,483	<i>cypraea annulus</i>
	<i>phalium</i> lip	WT 488	worked
	conus fossil	WT 486	<i>trochiform gastropod</i>
	sea urchin fossil	WT 458	<i>coenholectypus</i>
	7 spindle whorls	WT 502,543, 545, 546, 567,572, 573	reworked ceramic
	stone bowl	WT 485	limestone
	stone pebble	WT 451	worked
	animal bones		

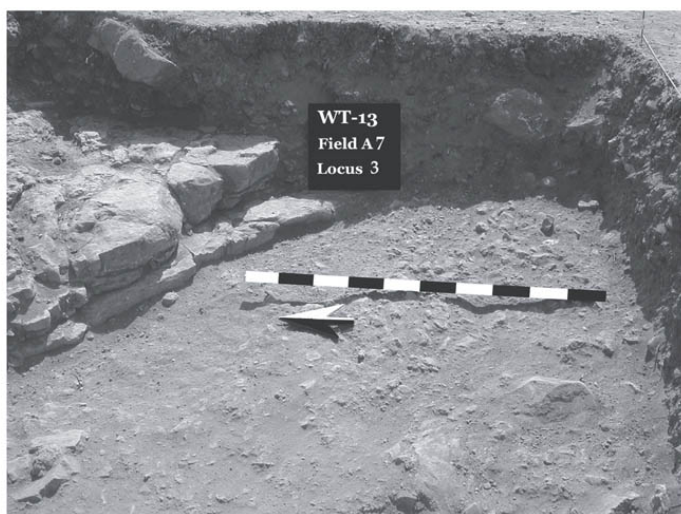
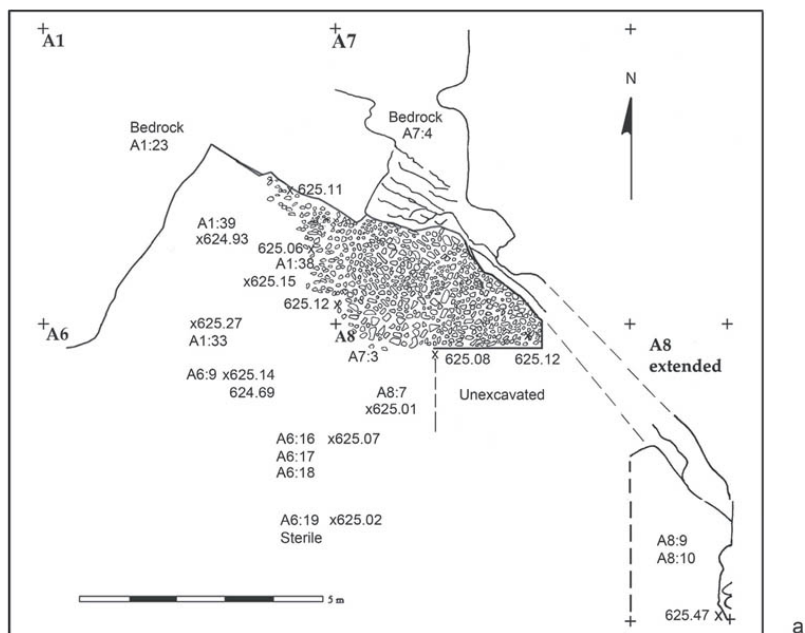


Figure 3.12. a) Stratum IIC fill layer of soil and cobbles above Stratum III ash; b) IIC fill layer A7:3, looking east

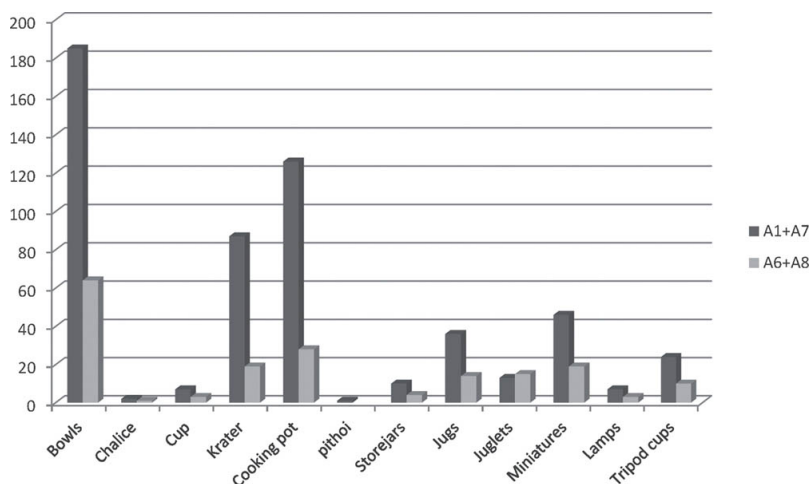


Chart 3.1. Number of classified diagnostic sherds in Stratum IIC fill

The red slipped saucer (Fig. 3.13:1), bent-sided bowls (Fig. 3.13:5–8), hemispherical or simple round-bodied bowls,¹⁹ including one red slipped vessel (Fig. 3.13:12), and small carinated bowls (Fig. 3.13:14–16) are all typical of Iron IIB–C, with 9th century BC parallels at Tell er-Rumeith in the north (Barako 2015: fig. 3.1:5, 6) and at 7th century Ḥorvat Qitmit in the Negev (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995: figs. 4.1:26, 27, 39; 4.9:16). So too, a bowl with a sharply inverted triangular rim (Fig. 3.13:24), with a groove on the underside, has formal parallels in Tomb 20 at Nebo (Saller 1966: fig. 27:6) and at Tall Madaba (Foran *et al.* 2004 fig. 3:7).

Various krater forms, one with a carinated body (Fig. 3.14:5) has a parallel at al-Rumayl (Fig. 14.14.9), while others with triangular-shaped rims that slope inward, have parallels in the 8th century assemblage at Tell er-Rumeith (Barako 2015: fig 3.16:1–9, 11–12), as does an everted rim krater (Fig. 3.14:7; Barako 2015: fig. 3.16:10). However, the dominant krater form, with nine examples, has a thickened incurving rim and a groove or ribbing on the exterior at the lower edge of the rim (Fig. 3.14:12–14), a form already present in the ash layer (Fig. 3.8:8). As well, two

kraters with the pendant knob (Fig. 3.14:17, 18), similar to those in the ash layer, are also present. Conversely, there is one example of the later inverted rectangular smudged krater (Fig. 3.14:15), which is the standard form in both Iron IIB and IIC levels at Tall Jawa, Tall al-ʿUmayri (Herr and Clark 2008: fig. 8:6) and Tall Dayr ʿAlla, where it continues into the early Persian period (Groot 2009: fig. 4:2).

The full range of late Iron I–Iron II cooking pot forms is represented among the fill sherds. Earliest is a rectangular sloping rim (Fig. 3.15:1), a flattened version of the earlier triangular rim. Vertical and sloping ribbed and grooved rim sherds (Fig. 3.15:4–6) are common at Moabite and Ammonite sites (Tushingham 1972: fig.1:34, 35), as well as at sites in the western Shephelah, such as Beer-Manoah, west of Beer-sheba (Gophna and Singer-Avitz 1984: fig. 42:7). Folded cooking pot rims that slope inward and have a broad gulley between the lip and ridge (Fig. 3.15:8–20) are the dominant form with good parallels at Iron II sites such as Tell er-Rumeith (Barako 2015: figs. 3.13:6, 7; 3.14:8–11; 3.15:1), Tall Dāmiyah in the Jordan Valley (Petit 2009: fig. 8.29:35), in Ammon (see above, Stratum IIIA) and in Moab (Tushingham 1972: fig. 1:18, 23). Typical of settlement sites in Iron II Moab is the squared-rim cooking pot (Fig. 3.15:22), which is now found in the assemblage. In Moab, this distinctive rim form is seen in several structures at Baluʿ (Worscheck 2014: A 090–092, C 09, C 11, E 159, E 160) and at Mudayna Thamad, where they are the dominant form (Steiner 2009: fig. 3).

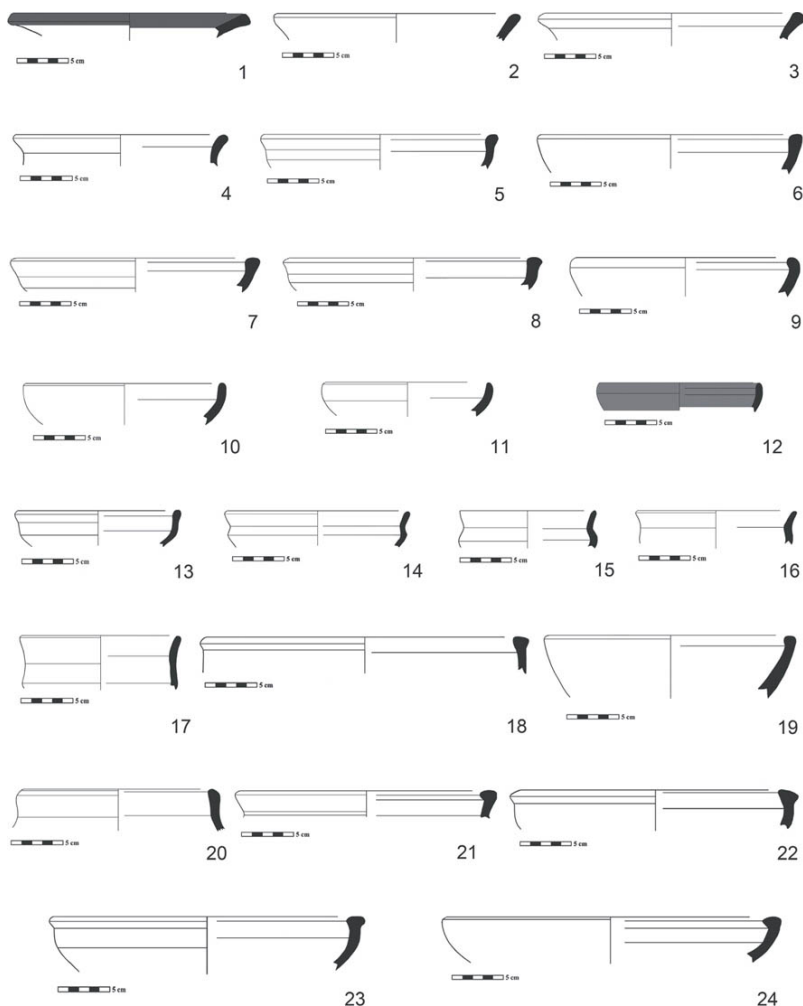


Figure 3.13. Bowls from Stratum IIC fill layers

The presence of both short- and tall-necked storejars (Fig. 3.16:1–5), comparable to those in Iron II loci at Beth Shean, certainly points to a later date than the pottery in the ash and around the Stratum III ovens. Rare in Moab is the ovoid short-necked jar, which has a parallel in SJ51 at Beth Shean (Mazar 2006: pl. 10:1 = ph. 12.29). This jar is contemporary with profiled rim jars with a neck ridge (Mazar 2006: pls. 10:2–4; 17:1, 3; 37:2, 3), a form that continues from Iron IIA through Iron IIB. The

increased presence of storejars in the fill is notable, in view of the paucity of storage vessels in the earlier phase.

Simple rim jugs (Fig. 3.16:6–8) are without particular chronological significance but contribute to the food preparation and consumption assemblage. Of special importance is a large body sherd with a unique bichrome painted design consisting of three concentric circles, linked by lines that cross in the middle (Fig. 3.16:12). At present there is no exact parallel for this design. Among the unusual vessel forms is a chalice (Fig. 3.16:14), which has a parallel in Stratum II, a thick, step-based lamp (A6/48.7, not shown), and a short-rimmed small bowl/cup (Fig. 3.16:13). Miscellaneous vessels include two very large krater or basin rims (Fig. 3.16:26, 27), the first of which has a faceted rim comparable to that of a red slipped vessel from the later Iron I phase at Hazerim in the Beer-sheba Valley (Gophna and Singer-Avitz 1984: fig. 41:16).

Figure 3.13. Bowls from Stratum IIC fill layers

1. (A7/13.14). Saucer; D 22.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, gray core, pinkish gray (5YR 6/2) exterior, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) slip on interior and rim.
2. (A1/64.1). Flaring rim, carinated; D 23.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.
3. (A1/94.17). Flaring rim, carinated; D 24 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4) exterior.
4. (A1/55.6). Flaring rim, carinated; D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
5. (A1/69.11). Bent-sided; D 21.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
6. (A1/66.15). Thickened rim; D 24.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/2) exterior.
7. (A1/69.9). Thickened rim; D 22.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/2) exterior.
8. (A1/66.3). Bent-sided; D 24.0 cm; gray (10YR 5/1) fabric,

white (7.5YR 8.5/1) exterior.

9. (A1/73.13). Incurving rim; D 20.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

10. (A1/62.17); Hemispherical bowl, simple rim; D 18.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

11. (A1/73.21). Hemispherical bowl, simple rim; D 15.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.

12. (A1/94.6). Hemispherical bowl, simple rim; D 14.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light red (10R 6/8) slip.

13. (A1/91.16). Bent-sided bowl; D 16.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

14. (A1/91.8). Carinated, crisp ware; D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.

15. (A1/62.16). Carinated; D 13.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

16. (A1/91.33). Carinated; D 15.0 cm; 14.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

17. (A1/94.12). Carinated; D 15.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

18. (A1/66.11). Triangular rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (5YR 7/6) exterior.

19. (A1/64.5). Incurving rim; D 22.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior.

20. (A7/6.12). Bevelled rim; D 18.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

21. (A1/73.15); Carinated, inverted rim; D 23 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

22. (A7/6.8). Triangular rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) slip.

23. (A7/7.13). Triangular rim; D 27.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) exterior.

24. (A1/73.19). Platter, triangular rim; D 30.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and (10YR 7/4) exterior.

Figure 3.14. Kraters from Stratum IIC fill layers

1. (A1/62.15). Flaring rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.
2. (A1/91.30). Flaring rim; D 27.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
3. (A1/68.15). Carinated, vertical rim; D 25.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
4. (A1/94.13). Flaring rim; D 21.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and (5YR 6/6) exterior.
5. (A1/73.25). Thickened rim; 26.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.
6. (A1/64.3). Thickened rim; D 25.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.
7. (A1/61.11). Everted triangular rim; D 20.5 cm: reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
8. (A7/15.3). Triangular rim; D 24.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and (10YR 8/3) exterior.
9. (A1/61.7). Triangular rim; D 17.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
10. (A1/62.14) Triangular rim; D 27.0 cm: reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.
11. (A7/17.7). Triangular rim; D 21.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and (5YR 7/6) exterior.
12. (A1/51.5). Incurving rim; D 33.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior; perforated.
13. (A1/94.18). Incurving rim; D 26.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

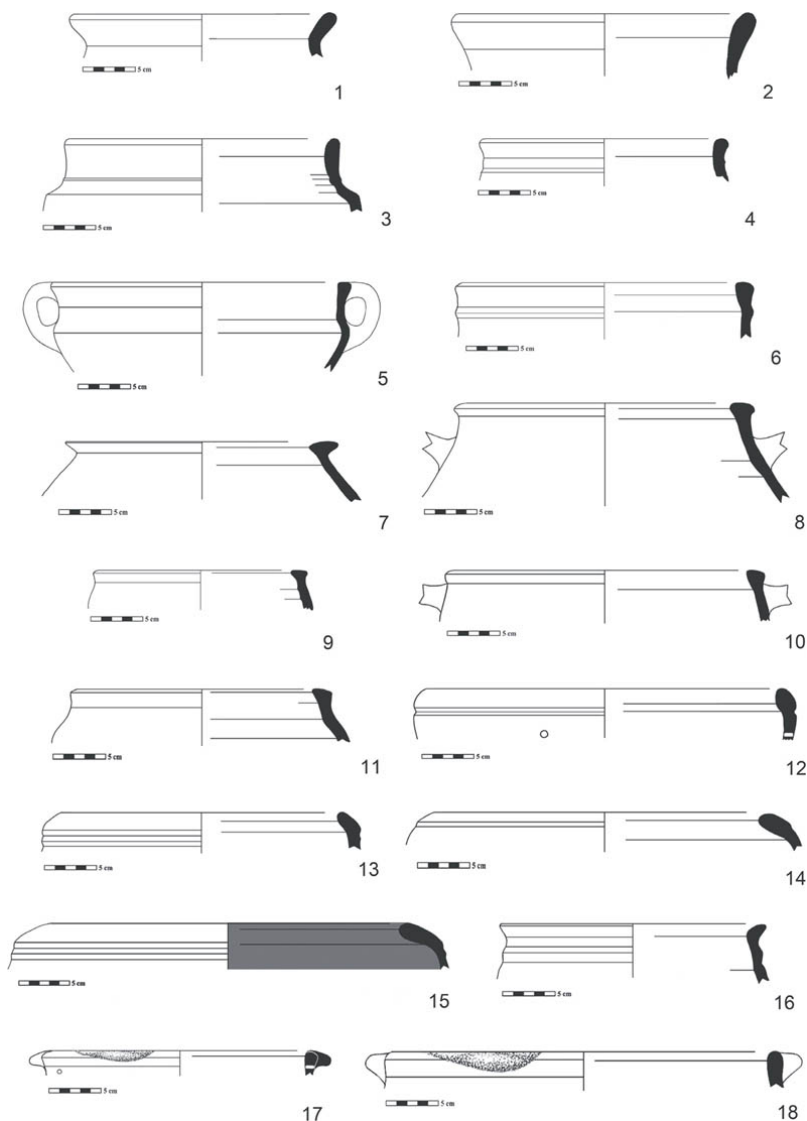


Figure 3.14. Kraters from Stratum IIC fill layers

14. (A7/7.14). Incurving rim; D 29.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

15. (A7/8.13) Inverted rim; D 33.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior slip; interior smudged.

16. (A1/94.16). Everted rim + ridge; D 25.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) exterior.
17. (A1/55.14). Thickened rim + knob; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior; perforated.
18. (A6/33.10). Simple rim + knob; D 36.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/2) exterior slip.

Figure 3.15 Cooking pots from Stratum IIC fill layers

1. (A8/24.3). Triangular rim; D 17.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 4/6) fabric and exterior.
2. (A1/74.9). Profiled ribbed rim; D 13.0 cm; dark gray (5YR 4/1) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
3. (A1/61.5). Thickened ribbed rim; D 14.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) exterior.
4. (A1/68.6). Thickened ribbed rim; D 12.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
5. (A1/66.7). Thickened grooved rim; D 18.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
6. (A1/69.18). Rectangular grooved rim; D 26.5 cm; reddish gray (2.5YR 5/1) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 6/2) exterior.
7. (A1/64.8). Thickened rim; D 19.0 cm; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) fabric, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) exterior.
8. (A1/61.3). Folded rim; D 19.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.
9. (A1/61.10). Folded rim; D 16.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) exterior.
10. (A6/33.15). Folded rim; D 16.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
11. (A1/74.12). Folded rim; D 18.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 4/2) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) exterior.
12. (A1/68.10). Folded rim; D 14.0 cm; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) fabric, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) exterior.
13. (A1/68.17). Thickened ridged rim; D 11.5 cm; light

- brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior.
14. (A1/73.17). Folded rim; D 17.0 cm; dark gray (5YR 4/1) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/3) exterior.
15. (A1/74.3). Folded rim; D 16.0 cm; dark reddish gray (5YR 4/2) fabric, dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) exterior.
16. (A1/64.7). Folded rim; D 14.5 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
17. (A1/73.6). Folded rim; D 20.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.
18. (A1/68.9). Folded rim; D 17.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
19. (A1/91.4). Folded rim; D 16.5, body D 29.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
20. (A7/7.17). Folded rim; D 25.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.
21. (A1/94.19). Thin rim; D 14.0 cm; pale red (10R 6/4) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) exterior.
22. (A1/.68.11). Squared rim; D 12.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.
23. (A7/6.6). Simple rim; D 10.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/8) fabric, strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) exterior.

Figure 3.16. Storejars, jugs, juglets and miscellaneous from Stratum IIC fill layers

1. (A7/17.11). Storejar, triangular rim; D 13.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.
2. (A7/6.9). Storejar, profiled rim; D 9 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/6) exterior.
3. (A7/7.12). Storejar, profiled rim; D 8.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior slip.
4. (A7/7.19). Storejar, profiled rim; D 8.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and (7.5YR 8/6) exterior.

5. (A1/73.1). Storejar, profiled rim; D 8.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and (5YR 6/8) exterior.
6. (A1/69.16). Jug, simple rim + handle; D 9.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
7. (A7/17.9). Jug, simple rim + handle; D 6.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.
8. (A1/91.13). Jug, thickened rim; D 8.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
9. (A6/33.5). Juglet thickened rim; D 5.6 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) exterior slip.
10. (A6/33.12). Juglet thickened rim; D 4.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/2) exterior slip.
11. (A8/24.4). Juglet base; D 4.5 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.
12. (A1/66.16). Jug body sherd; D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior, very dark gray (N 3/) and weak red (10R 5/4) paint; crossed circle design.
13. (A7/13.10). Cup; D 12.8 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
14. (A7/6.7). Chalice, everted rim; D 20.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and (7.5YR 8/6) exterior.
15. (A1/74.6). Small jar; D 9.5 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.
16. (A1/64.11). Bowl; D 18.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
17. (A7/17.2). Bowl, flattened rim D 17.2 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
18. (A1/69.1). Krater, grooved rim; D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior.

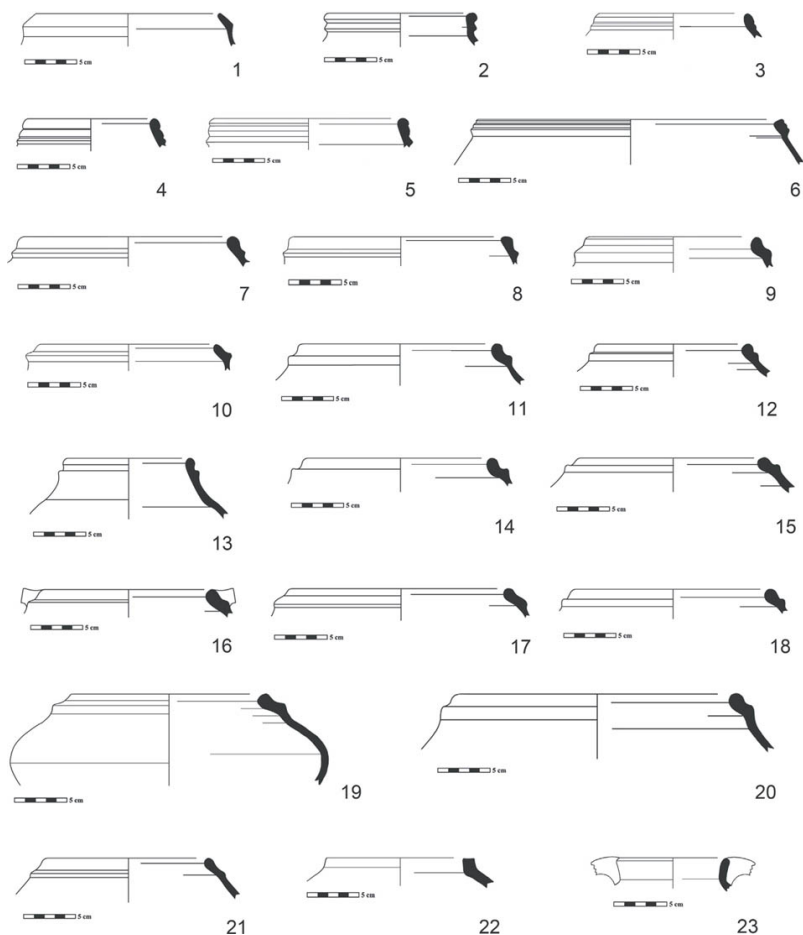


Figure 3.15. Cooking pots from Stratum IIC fill layers

19. (A1.61.8). Krater, profiled rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) exterior.

20. (A1.73.16). Bowl, bevelled rim D 30.0 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

21. (A7/17.6). Bowl, triangular rim + handle; D 27.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.

22. (A7/13.9). Krater, triangular rim; D 22.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.

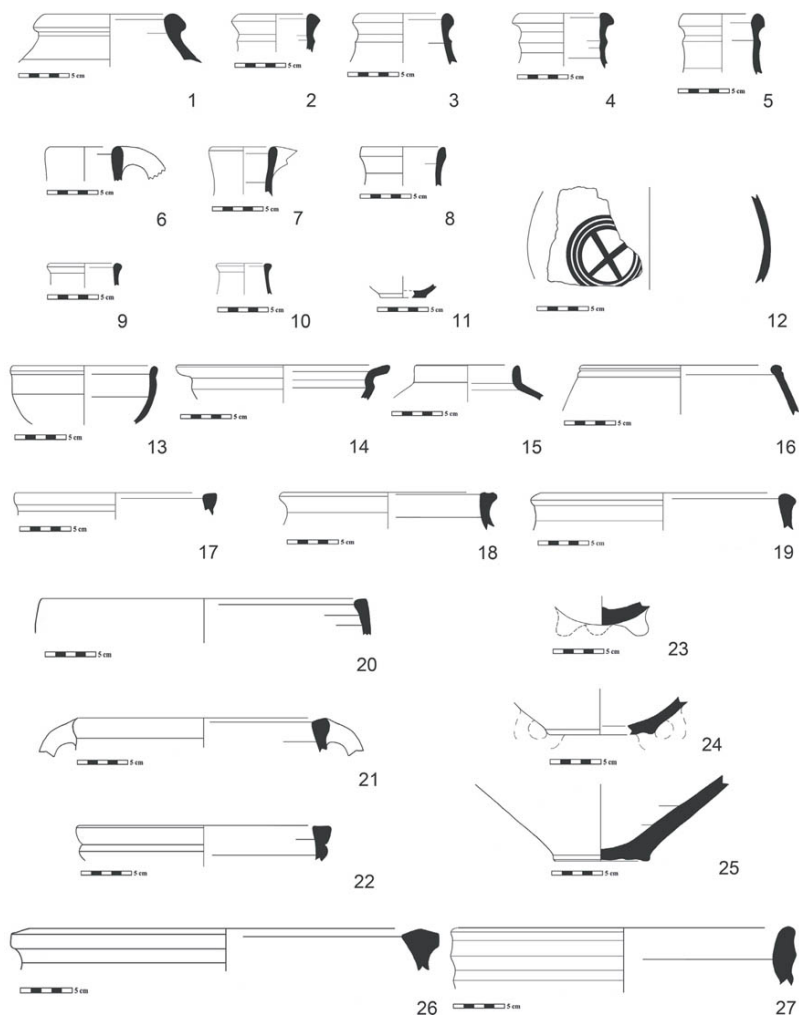


Figure 3.16. Storejars, jugs, juglets and miscellaneous from Stratum IIC fill layers

23. (A7/17.12). Tripod cup base; D 9.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.

24. (A7/17.29). Krater, loop-footed base; D 10.2 cm; dark reddish gray (2.5YR 4/1) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior slip, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) interior slip(?).

25. (A1/66.12). Krater, ring base; D 10.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.

26. (A7/6.16). Basin/Krater, faceted rim; D 34.8 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior.
27. (A1/69.14). Basin, ribbed rim; D 32.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior.

Figure 3.17. Artefacts from Stratum IIC fill layers

1. WT 458. Sea urchin fossil, see [Chapter 11](#).
2. WT 486. Trochiform gastropod internal mould, see [Chapter 10](#).
3. WT 488. *Phalium*, see [Chapter 10](#)
4. WT 490. Oyster, see [Chapter 10](#).
5. WT 502. Spindle whorl; ext D 6.3, int D 0.9, T 1.9 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) ext, gray (10YR 6/1) int.
6. WT 543. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 6.0, T 1.4 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) ext, light red (2.5YR 6/6) int.
7. WT 545. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 7.0, T 1.6 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ext, gray (7.5YR 6/1) int.
8. WT 546. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 7.9, T 1.9 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) ext, light gray (2.5Y 7/1) int.
9. WT 567. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 6.2, int D 1.4 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ext and int.
10. WT 572. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 7.2, int D 1.9, T 1.9 cm; light reddish brown (7.5YR 6/4) ext, pink (7.5YR 7/4) int.
11. WT 573. Spindle whorl, reworked sherd; ext D 5.2, in D 1.6, T 1.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) ext and (5YR 6/6) int.
12. WT 485. Stone bowl, limestone; ext D 25.0, int D 22.0, int Dpt 5.1 cm; broken.

Given the diversity in the ceramic corpus and the presence of both Early and Middle Iron II forms, the fill may reflect discard during a longer or more sporadic use of the ovens than was evident in the Stratum IIIA ash layer alone. Spindle whorls are again present in

the small artefact assemblage (Fig. 3.17:1–12; 17a), as are marine invertebrates and fossils, along with one limestone bowl. It may be, however, that a new style of cultic practice was already being carried out in the western half of the site during the time that the eastern sector was being filled. This is marked by several categories of objects that are representative of the later cult, especially figurines, tripod cups and a sherd that mends with a Stratum IIB architectural model. As we saw above, the pottery on the Stratum IIIB cobble pavement (A8:13 + A7:8; Fig. 3.2b), notably the rim and neck of a Cypriot juglet (Fig. 3.5:13), appears to be later than most other forms in the Stratum IIIB ceramic assemblage, since Black-on-Red Cypriot juglets appear at coastal sites beginning in the late 9th–early 8th centuries BC (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2004:218). In these upper fill layers, there is probably also a certain amount of contamination, since several items are similar to or mend with those found in the Stratum IIB surfaces that sealed the fill. Of note is a tiny stone figurine (WT 484; Figs. 3.17a; 4.4:7) that was near the top of fill layer A1:39 (Fig. 3.12a).

Wall construction (Stratum IIB, Figs. 3.18, 19; 21a; Tables 3D and 3E)

It was above and embedded in these fill layers that the walls of the eastern end of a temenos were constructed. The east wall (W1103) ran north and rose onto bedrock A1:23 before meeting east–west Wall 1111 (Fig. 3.18a, foreground). At its south end, Wall 1103 bonded with Wall 1105, which was first footed on a soil and cobble layer and then extended west onto heavily fractured bedrock (A2:19; Fig. 3.18a, b). The western perimeter of the temenos area was formed by north–south Wall 1104 (Fig. 3.19a) and east–west Wall 1106 on the north (Fig. 3.19b, c), both of which were footed on bedrock. These walls were all constructed in boulder-and-chink fashion using semi-hewn and unhewn field stones with mud mortar between the stones. Due to the slope in the bedrock and the natural “steps” and crevices in these areas,

both walls (W1104, W1106) served to support the uppermost bedrock surface on both the west and north sides (Fig. 3.19c). The base of each wall followed the contours of the bedrock, avoiding the deep crevices along the west side, and met at a corner reinforced with a squared chert boulder. Wall 1106 tapered out before reaching Wall 1101, although ancient collapse and modern disturbance may account for the lack of wall stones at this point. Wall 1101 ran east–west on the north side and was formed of squared chert boulders, similar to certain stones in the lower courses of Walls 1004 and 1006 to the west. It was footed on bedrock along its north side (Fig. 3.19d) and on a thin compact layer of soil and pebbles to stabilize its southern side (A2:28). Although the complete perimeter was not traced on the west and south sides, enough of the walls were preserved to estimate the maximum size of the interior space at 13.3 m (E–W) × 6.4 m (N–S).

Table 3D. Stratum II wall sizes ¹

<i>Wall number</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Bonds with</i>
1101	6.50	0.45–0.65	0.40	
1103	7.10	0.45–0.60	0.51	W1105, 1111
1104	2.90	0.48–0.70	0.38	W1106
1105	4.45	0.49–0.82	0.43	W1103
1106	3.85	0.45–0.75	0.36	W1104
1107*	3.90	0.50	ca. 0.30	
1108*	0.90	0.25	ca. 0.15	W1109
1109*	1.90	0.30	0.47	W1108
1111	3.20	0.65–0.90	0.36	W1103
1112*	2.00	0.50–1.20	0.30	
1113*	2.10	0.20–0.30	0.48	
1114*	2.13	1.11	0.44	

* Interior partition wall

1 Sizes for Table 3D are adapted from Dolan (2007:111–112) with additional data from the field notebooks. Damage to the walls between excavation seasons accounts for the approximate sizes reported here.

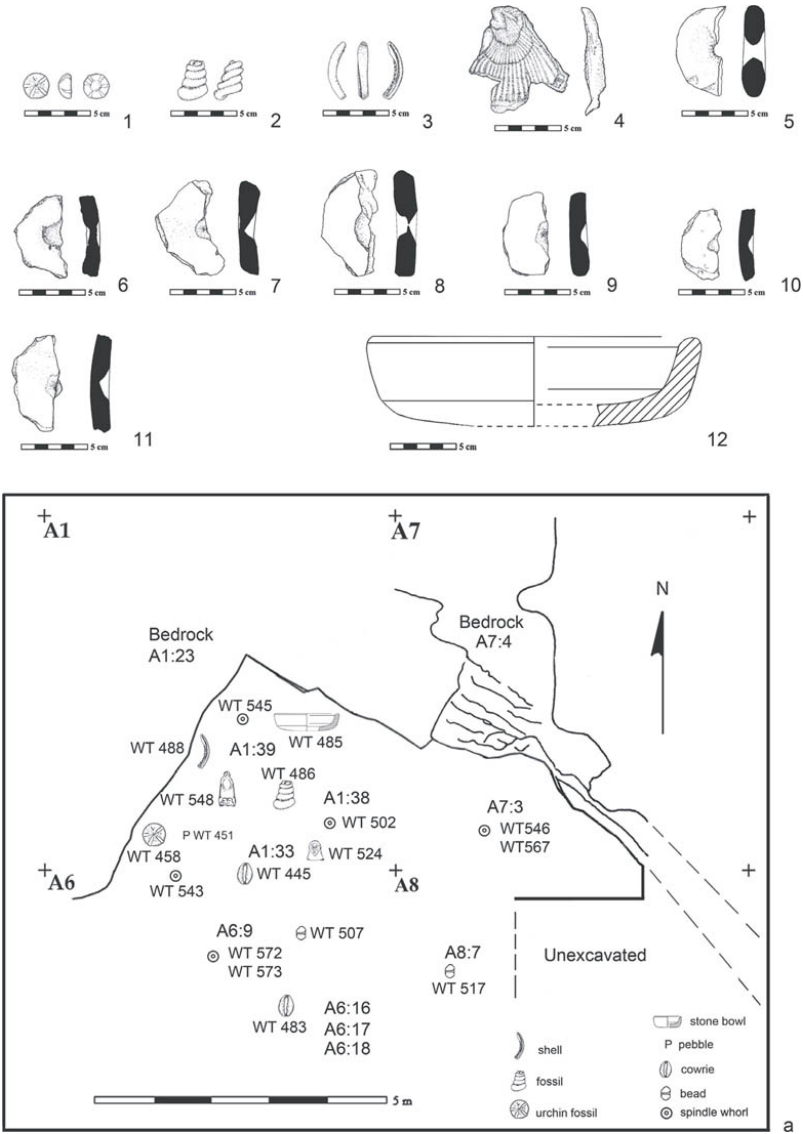
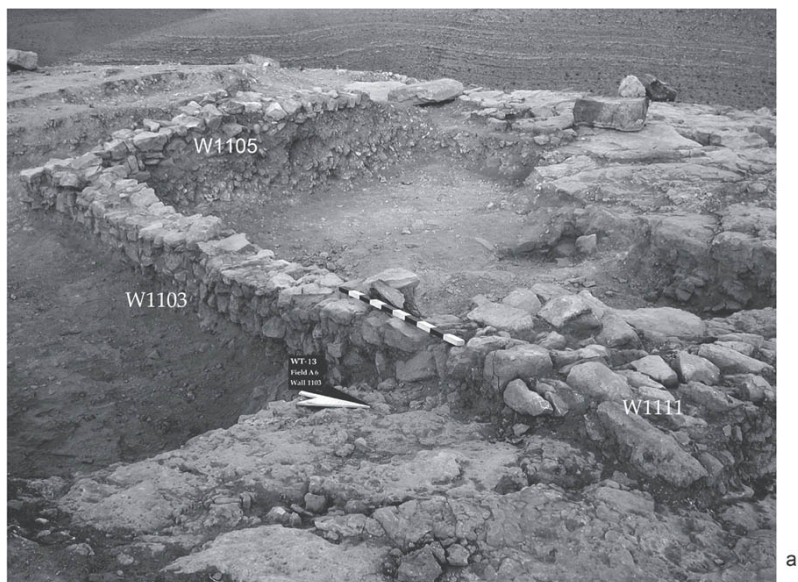


Figure 3.17. 1–12) Artefacts from Stratum IIC fill layers; a) distribution of objects within Stratum IIC fill layers



a



b

Figure 3.18. East walls; a) W1111 foreground, W1103 left, W1105 background; b) south face of W1105

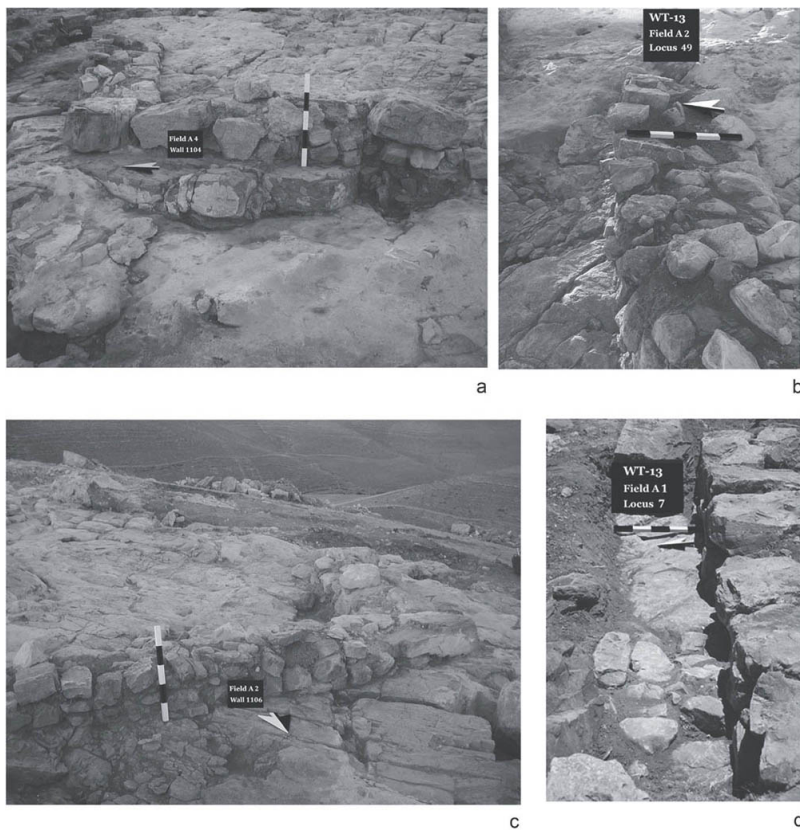


Figure 3.19. West walls; a) west face of W1104, centre; W1106, left; b) W1106 running east; c) east face of W1106; d) W1101 footed on Bedrock A1:7

Table 3E. Walls of WT-13

<i>Wall number</i>	<i>Locus</i>	<i>Description</i>
1101	13/A1:2	East–west wall; W of Doorway AA
1102	13/A1:8	East–west wall; S edge of Squares A1 and A2 (Stratum I)
1103	13/A1:16+A6:10	North–south wall; E side of Square A1
1104	13/A4:3	North–south wall; E side of Square A4; bonding with W1106
1105	13/A6:11	East–west wall; N edge of Square A6
1106	13/A2:49+A4:2	East–west wall; N edge of Squares A4 + A2, bonds with W1104
1107	13/A2:12+A2:33	East–west wall; S of and parallel to W1101; north–centre of A2
1108	13/A2:10+A2:22	North–south wall; abutting E end of W1107; centre of A2
1109	13/A2:16	East–west wall; bonding with W1108; centre of A2
1110	13/A1:9	East–west wall; parallel to and south of W1102 (Stratum I)
1111	13/A1:5	East–west wall; bonding with the north end of W1103
1112	13/A1:31	North–South wall stub, extending south from W1101
1113	13/A1:10/A2:45	East–West line of stones, south of Wall 1101
1114	13/A5:15	North–South wall stub; abutted by W1102(?); extending north in A5

As noted above, certain walls were footed entirely on bedrock (W1104, W1106, W1111), while the eastern walls (W1103, W1105) were built for the most part on fill (A1:38, A7:3; A6:9)

and only supported by bedrock at one end.²⁰ In general, the temenos walls are poorly preserved and are missing completely in some areas, especially along the south side, west of the preserved end of Wall 1105.

Features in the bedrock surface (A2:19=38) on the west include two large depressions, as well as several smaller ones located under and to the outside of Wall 1104 (Fig. 3.20). The larger of these (A2:24) was in the centre of the western sector, measured 0.60–0.75 m in width and 1.44 m in length and was 0.77 m deep (Fig. 3.20b, c). A second depression, in the southwest corner of the temenos (A2:25) was 0.60 m wide and ca. 0.90 m long. The evidence for partial reshaping of these two depressions suggests that they served special functions in the western half of the temenos, although the exact nature of those functions was less evident. Little in the way of sherd material was found in the soil accumulation in either depression (A2:5+51; A2:7, respectively).²¹

There was only one entrance to the temenos at the east end of Wall 1101 (Doorway AA; Fig. 3.21a). The doorframe was formed of squared boulders footed on the bedrock, which also served as the threshold (A1:4). A row of stones (A1:30) formed a sill on the north side of the entryway. The west end of Wall 1111 constituted the eastern frame of the entrance and was marked by two stacked stones (A1:5), with a length of 0.46 m, that stood 0.54 m in height to the left of the doorway on entering the temenos.

In the northeast corner was an L-shaped bench feature, with one section (A1:20) consisting of a row of long limestone boulders (0.73 m) that sealed against east Wall 1103 and extended along its west face to fill the corner. Along with Wall 1103, it was footed on fill layer A1:38 (Fig. 3.12a) and on the stepped bedrock to the north. Altogether, the bench extended 1.75 m, stood to a height of 0.32–0.37 m and had a width of 0.15–0.33 m. The second section (A1:21) was built up on bedrock to form a rectangular platform that sealed against the south face of W1111 and the west face of

Bench A1:20 to the east. The platform, measuring approximately 0.80×1.10 m, was made of flat-laid semi-hewn limestone boulders and stood to a height 0.48 m.

The situation was somewhat different on the west side. Due to the natural fracturing of the bedrock in a south-easterly direction, there were several channels between sectors, suggesting a certain amount of geological shift (Fig. 3.20b, c). Whether these channels served to drain the site underneath the level of the earliest surface or were a feature utilized during ritual activities is unclear. However, given the irregularities in the bedrock, it is assumed that a layer of beaten earth (A1:27, 28) put in place at the beginning of Stratum IIB over the Stratum IIC fill served as the earliest surface.

Outside the northwest corner, where Walls 1104 and 1106 met, there was a deep channel (A4:6) with irregular sides that ran parallel to and downslope from Wall 1004. The channel extended for 6.00 m, was roughly 1.90 m wide, and varied in depth. Near the north end, where the channel narrows, there were four flagstones set on their long edges (A4:10) forming a dam, 0.80 m long across the channel (Fig. 3.21a, b). This dam could have formed a small pool, retaining water that was used in ritual acts during Stratum II, although there is no stratigraphic link to the activity areas within the temenos.

Principal surfaces and installations within the temenos **(Stratum IIB, Fig. 3.21)**

Sealed up against the eastern walls was a hard-packed soil and cobble layer (A1:17, 27, 28, A6:8) that covered the fill layers and the scarp and tapered up to areas of bedrock outcrop on the north, especially in the area of Doorway AA (A1:4; Fig. 3.21a). In the middle of the temenos south of the north walls (W1101, W1106), there was a continuation of this surface (A2:58),²² which extended west and south across the bedrock (A2:19) as (A2:14 + 21 + 23). These loci overlay what appeared to be mud plaster (A2:20) embedded in the crevices of the bedrock. The uneven bedrock also

necessitated the construction of packed soil and cobble foundations (A2:55+56) for both the east end of W1101 (A2:54) and for sections of Wall 1106 (A2:49+A4:2) on the north, as well as for areas along the southern perimeter (A2:48) that extended outside the walls. Starting in the east, we can see that the pottery and artefacts (Table 3F) assigned to the lower level of the eastern “surface” were widely scattered and included fragments of ceramic statues and architectural models, shells and pebbles.²³

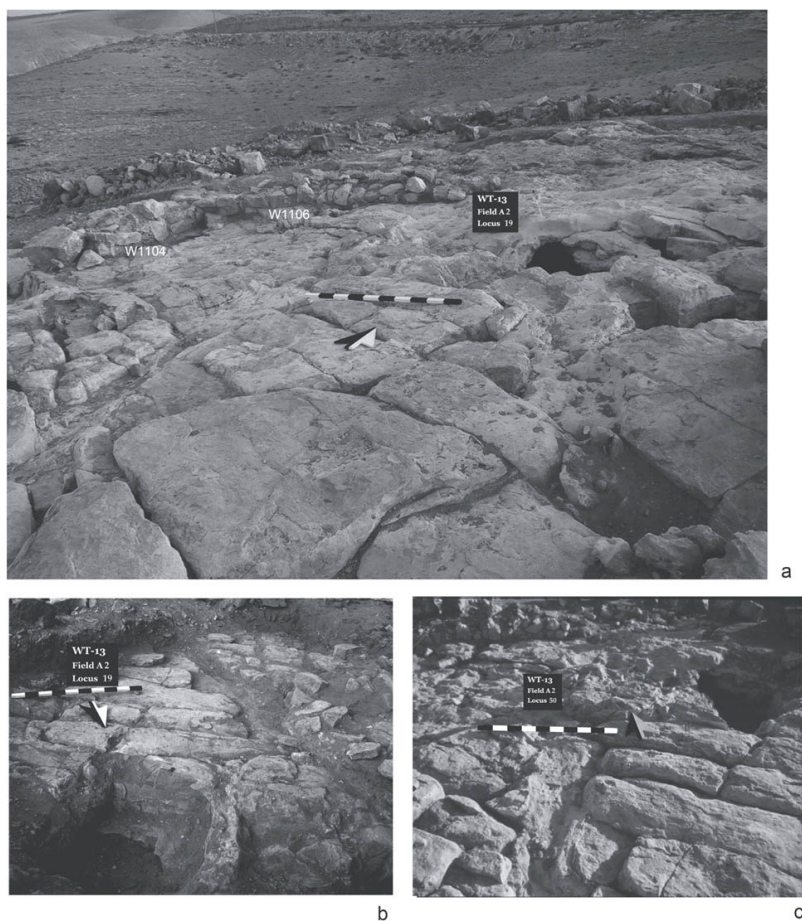
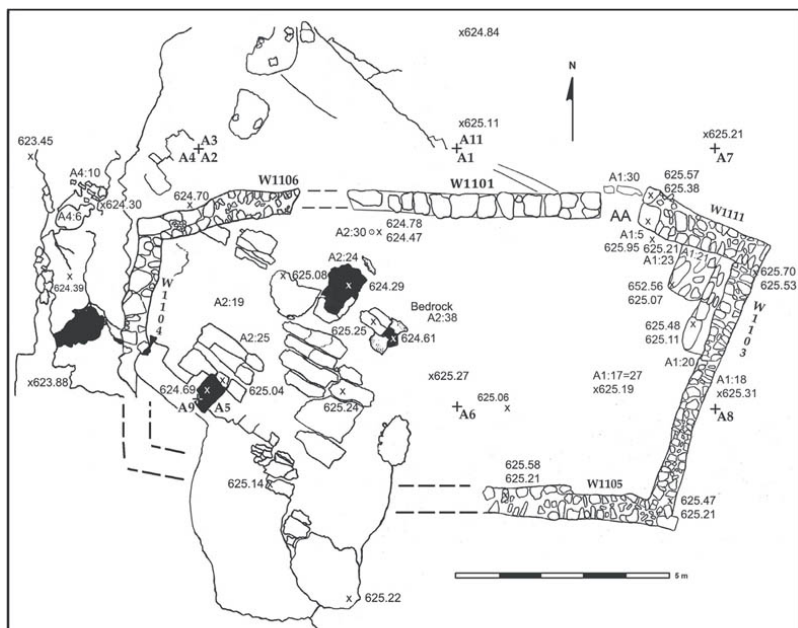


Figure 3.20. Bedrock; a) fractured bedrock (A2:19) in western half of temenos with walls W1104 and W1106 in background; b) channel and depression A2:25; c) channel and depression A2:24



a



b

Figure 3.21. a) Plan of temenos construction phase; b) depressions A4:6 with dam A4:10

Table 3F. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIB eastern surface

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A1:17,26,27, 28=37	1927 ceramic sherds	145 diagnostic sherds	
A2: 58	165 ceramic sherds	22 diagnostic sherds	
A6:8	215 ceramic sherds	31 diagnostic sherds	
	beads	WT 446	stone, shell
	figurines	WT 479,495, 554	ceramic
	statues fragments	WT 335,447, 449,489,556, 561	ceramic
	architectural model	WT 438	ceramic
	shells	WT 152,271	
	spindle whorls	WT 351,529, 571	reworked ceramic
	libation vessel	WT 514	ceramic
	stone pebbles	WT 379,482, 532	worked
	animal bones		

The sherds in this assemblage include several fine ware flaring bowl rims (Fig. 3.22:1–3) as well as thickened rim bowls in various forms (Fig. 3.22:4–6). One thick-walled bent-sided bowl or mortar (Fig. 3.22:7) is shallower than two standard size incurving rim bowls (Fig. 3.22:8–9). Inverted triangular rim bowls (Fig. 3.22:10, 11), a type common in Iron II Ammonite corpora, links the assemblage to sites in the region. Several other rim forms are represented; squared, thickened and rolled as well as flattened flaring rims (Fig. 3.22:12–16); the last bowl form is a smaller

version of a krater (Fig. 3.14:5) from the underlying fill layer.

One chalice with an everted rectangular rim (Fig. 3.22:17) is similar in shape to a chalice from the Stratum IIC fill layer (Fig. 3.16:14). Other small bowl forms (Fig. 3.22:18–20) may represent one-handled cups, which are known in various sizes from Ammonite sites to the north (Daviau 2014a: fig. 5:7–10).

Figure 3.22. Stratum II Eastern Surface (Lower Level); 1–16) bowls; 17) chalice; 18–20) cups

1. (A1/49.24). Fine ware; D 12.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
2. (A1/49.28). Fine ware; D 19.5 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
3. (A1/67.6). Fine ware; D 19.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/1) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/3) exterior.
4. (A1/59.2). Thickened rim; D 20.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior.
5. (A1/49.36). Thickened rim; D 18.0 cm; light gray (N 7/) fabric, gray (2.5Y 6/1) exterior.
6. (A1/59.18). Thickened rim; D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.
7. (A1/59.20). Bent-sided; D 20.0 cm; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.
8. (A1/60.12). Incurving rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.
9. (A1/67.5). Incurving rim; D 20.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
10. (A1/65.12). Inverted rim; D 24.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
11. (A1/60.18). Inverted rim; D 22.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
12. (A1/60.14). Squared rim; D 22.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.
13. (A1/49.21). Triangular rim; D 23.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4)

fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

14. (A6/40.1). Rolled rim; D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior.

15. (A1/59.14). Everted rim; D 24.0 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.

16. (A1/81.4). Flaring rim; D 20.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior.

17. (A1/59.6). Chalice, everted rim; D 19.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

18. (A1/49.26). Cup; D 10.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

19. (A1/59.3). Cup; D 12.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

20. (A1/81.2). Cup(?); D 9.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

Figure 3.23. Kraters from Stratum IIB Eastern Surface (Lower Level)

1. (A1/48.1). Triangular rim; D 26.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

2. (A1/60.16). Triangular rim; D 18.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

3. (A1/81.3). Rolled rim; D 20.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior.

4. (A1/65.13). Everted triangular rim; D 32.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

5. (A1/48.8). Thickened inverted rim, smudged; D 16.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, pink (5YR 7/3) exterior.

6. (A1/81.5). Inverted rectangular rim, smudged; D 26.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

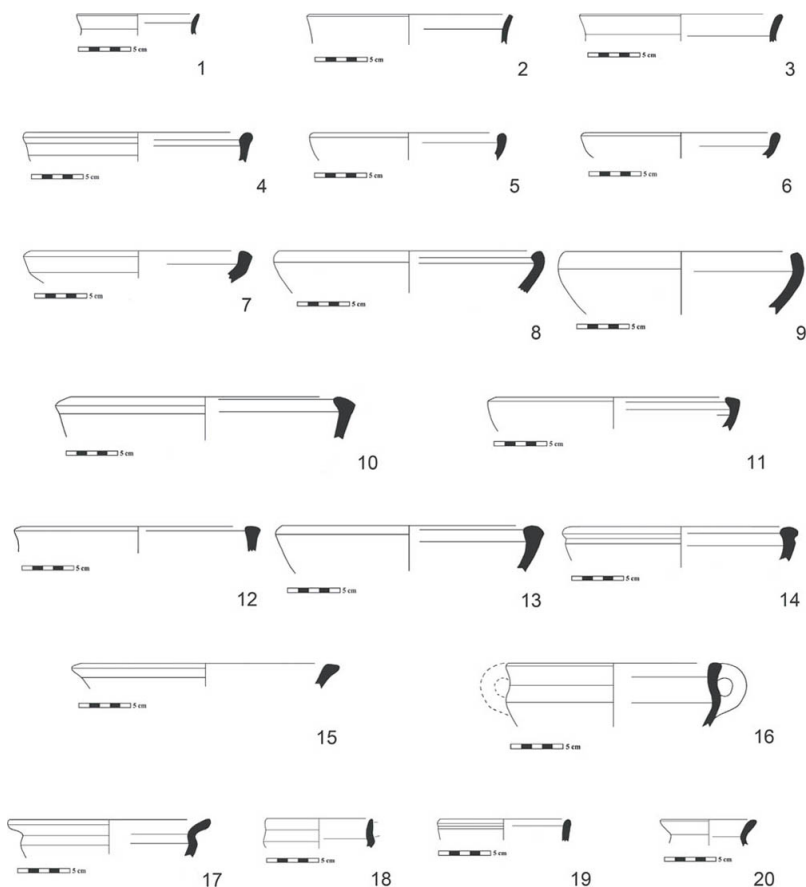


Figure 3.22. Stratum II eastern surface (lower level); 1–16) bowls; 17) chalice; 18–20) cups

7. (A1/59.5). Vertical rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/4) exterior.

8. (A1/59.24). Vertical rim + knob; D 39.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.

9. (A1/49.1). Flaring rim; D 28.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

10. (A1/49.19). Flaring rim; D 32.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior.

11. (A1/60.10). T-shaped rim; D 26.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

12. (A6/40.6). Rim + knob; D 28.0 cm; brown (10YR 5/3) fabric and exterior.

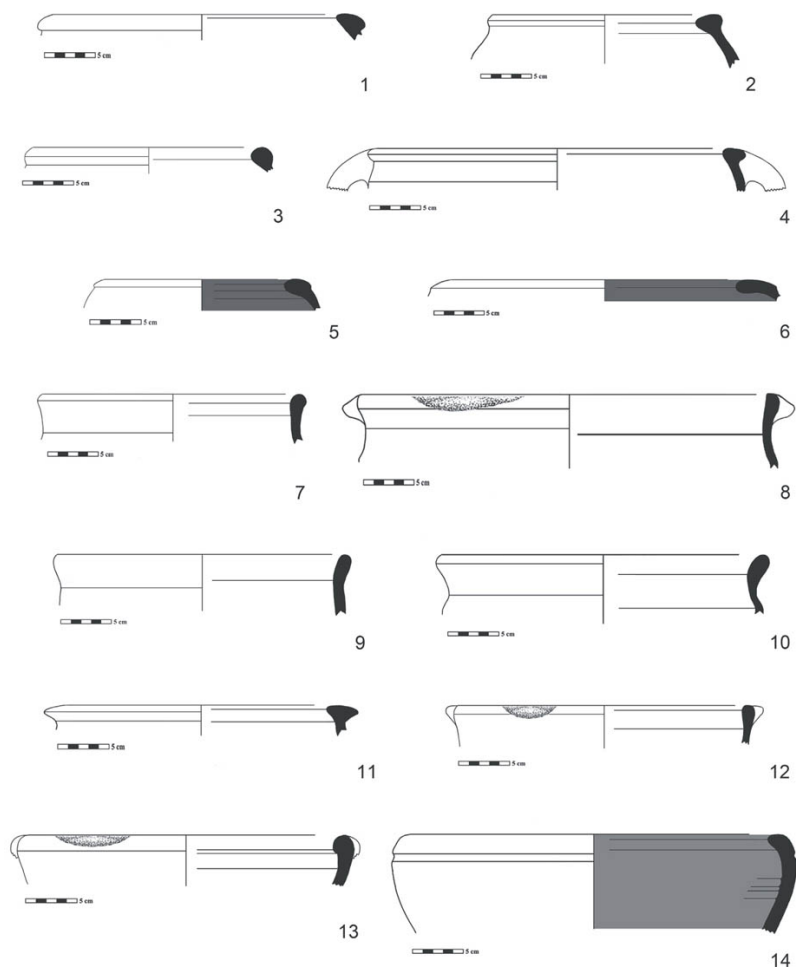


Figure 3.23. Kraters from Stratum IIB eastern surface (lower level)

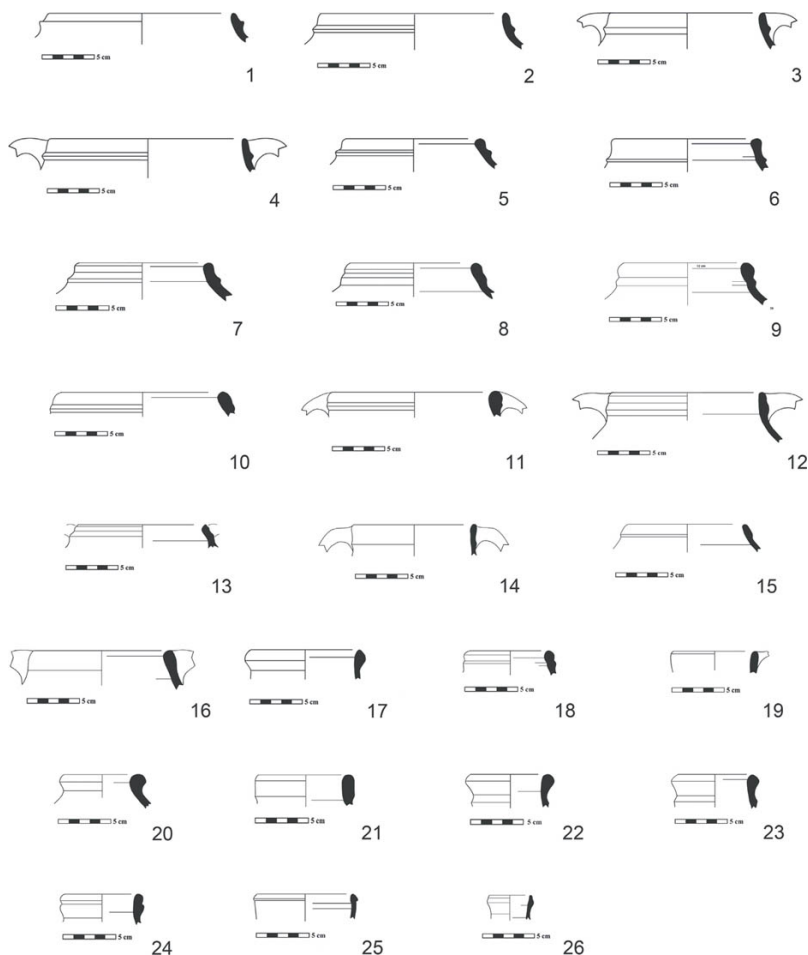


Figure 3.24. Stratum IIB eastern surface (lower level); 1–19) cooking pots; 20–21) storejars; 22–25) jugs; 26) juglet

13. (A1/59.10). Rim + knob; D 28.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior.

14. (A1/16.10). Incurving rim, smudged; D 32.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

Figure 3.24. Stratum IIB Eastern surface (Lower Level); 1–19) cooking pots; 20–21) storejars; 22–25) jugs; 26) juglet

1. (A1/48.5). D 18.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.
2. (A1/49.8). D 18.5 cm; red (2.5YR 4/6) fabric and exterior.
3. (A1/49.12). D 12.0 cm; reddish gray (5YR 5/2) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/3) exterior.
4. (A1/49.38). D 18.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, red (10R 5/6) exterior.
5. (A1/49.4). D 14.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.
6. (A1/49.15). D 12.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
7. (A1/59.11). D 12 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
8. (A1/67.4). D 10.5 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
9. (A1/16.4). Cooking pot; D 18 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
10. (A1/60.7). D 14 cm; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.
11. (A1/59.19). D 16.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
12. (A1/49.37). D 14.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.
13. (A1/60.2). D 12.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/2) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
14. (A1/60.11). D 11.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
15. (A1/59.22). D 11.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
16. (A6/40.3). D 12 cm; reddish brown (5YR 4/3) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) exterior.
17. (A1/49.34). D 10.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 4/3) exterior.

18. (A1/60.4). D 7.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/2) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.
19. (A1/60.6). D 8.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.
20. (A1/60.17). Storejar; D 7.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/1) exterior.
21. A1/48.3). Storejar; D 8.0 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
22. (A1/59.12). Jug, thickened rim; D 6.5 cm; pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) fabric and exterior.
23. (A1/59.27). Jug, profiled rim; D 6.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.
24. A1/49.29). Jug, ribbed rim; D 6.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
25. (A1/65.7). Jug, thinned triangular rim; D 8.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.
26. A1/65.4). Juglet, thinned rim; D 4.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, gray (10YR 6/1) exterior.

Kraters from the eastern surface (Fig. 3.23) fall into the same types and subtypes as seen in the fill layers; sloping thickened rim pots, inverted rectangular-rim smudged kraters, vertical and flaring rim vessels with pendant knobs, and a large incurving rim krater.

Cooking pot forms include a wide range of wide and narrow mouth pots. A folded rim form with a more upright stance than those seen in Ammon is well represented (Fig. 3.24:1–4). Thickened rims with a lower ridge are also numerous (Fig. 3.24:5–9). Variant forms of these types are less distinctive, while narrow-mouth pots are externally thickened or have a simple rim (Fig. 3.24:17–19).

Storejars are few but one appears with a profiled rim while another has an elongated thickened rim (Fig. 3.24:20, 21). Jugs also have profiled rims as well as thickened ribbed rims (Fig. 3.24:22–24). One plain ware juglet has a slightly thickened

triangular rim (Fig. 3.24:26). Also present in this assemble are the well-known types of bases; flat, disc, and ring.

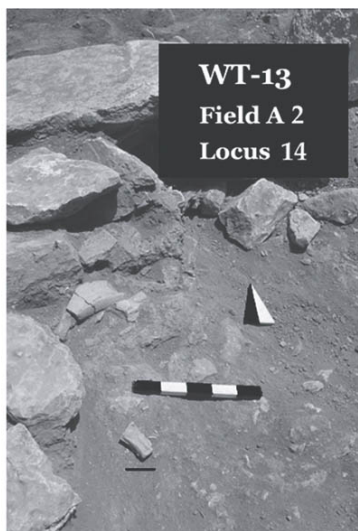
Severe disturbance was seen adjacent to western Wall 1104 where bedrock was exposed amidst piles of loose soil. Loci that most likely represent the earliest surface were interrupted by the construction of a number of short partition walls and/or benches in the form of flat-topped boulders in an east–west line (Fig. 3.25a, b, d).²⁴ Partition walls include Wall line W1112 (A1:31), extending south from the east frame of doorway AA, and north–south Wall line W1114 (A5:15) in the southwest, perpendicular to W1105. A line of flat topped stone blocks (A2:45) parallel to Wall 1101 may be somewhat later than east–west wall lines W1107 and W1109, which appear to have been constructed during the lower surface use phase (Fig. 3.30a). Single stones (such as A2:60, A2:62), each on a compact dirt and cobble foundation (A2:61; A2:64, respectively), are located at several points across the western half of the temenos. These compact mud and pebble footings for each of these installations were designed to seal crevices and level the uneven surface of the underlying bedrock.

Assigning contents to all sectors of the earliest surface in the western section is impeded by the severe damage from the collapse of the temenos walls and benches, along with subsequent erosion and repeated modern disturbance prior to and between excavation seasons. Undisturbed loci are few, but A2:11 is an exception (Fig. 3.25a); this compact soil layer lay directly above bedrock and was sealed by another hard-packed surface (A2:9, Upper Level, see below). Locus A2:11 was initially uncovered adjacent to a line of stones (W1107; A2:1) on the north and, on the south, by Wall line A2:17, a possible bench sealing against the north face of partition Wall 1109; Fig. 3.30a). Other soil layers (A2:14, 28; Fig. 3.25b, 3.26a) that sit immediately above bedrock and are of the same hard-packed consistency as A2:11 are the best examples of the earliest usage of the temenos. It is on these surfaces that a wide range of votive materials was uncovered (Fig.

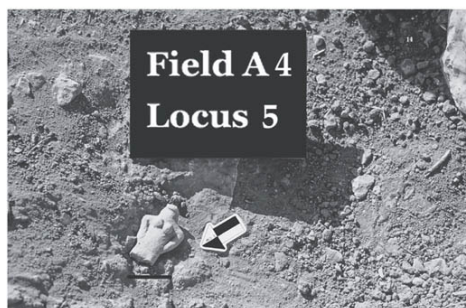
3.26b; Table 3G), including ceramic figurines and hollow statues (Chapter 4), architectural models, ceramic plaques, model furniture, geological exotica (Chapter 5), shells and fossils (Chapters 10, 11) and beads (Chapter 12). The number of specialized ceramic vessels, such as miniature juglets (imported and locally made) and small bowls, perforated tripod cups, chalices, a libation vessel and an inscribed juglet (Chapter 7) indicate that complex rituals were concentrated around the partition walls in the western sector of the temenos.



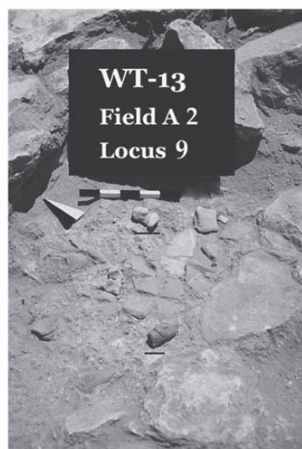
a



b



c



d

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A2:11,14,20, 21=23,28	1661 ceramic sherds	203 diagnostic sherds	
A2:57	27 ceramic sherds	3 diagnostic sherds	
A4:5,8	221 ceramic sherds	20 diagnostic sherds	
	figurines/ statues	WT 42,58,95, 99, 101,103, 119,161,168, 259,278, 280,267	ceramic
	figurines	WT 58,171, 175, 358	pillar
	miniature juglets	WT 132, 133	
	wall plaque	WT 415	ceramic
	beads	WT 62,106, 136,281,367, 508-512,516	agate, shell, bone
	fossil	WT 364	
	shells	WT 108,112, 152, 265,357	murex
	cosmetic dish	WT 34	tridacna
	spindle whorl	WT 276	ceramic
	stone bowl	WT 274	
	model furniture	WT 45,267	ceramic
	geological exotica	WT 294,296, 298,352,299, 506,528	stone
	mortars	WT 158,329	limestone, basalt
	pebbles	WT 352,355, 366,506	

Evidence for continued use of the shrine is seen in the presence of fragments of some of the large objects from the earlier surface embedded in superimposed loci. So too, continued use is

found in the superimposed soil layers located in small undisturbed areas and by the presence of artefacts and pottery beside the partition walls and benches inside the temenos, Benches A1:20 and A1:21 in the northeast and Walls 1107, W1108, W1109 in the west (Fig. 3.30a). Although not always found *in situ*, the wall lines and individual limestone and chert boulders, arranged east–west, give the appearance of deliberately placed features whose support layers (A2:18, 26) also yielded a small number of votive objects and pottery sherds. It is this configuration that the temenos continued in use throughout the remaining phases of the shrine (IIB–IIA).

Figure 3.27. 1–26) Bowls from Stratum IIB (Lower Level)
Western surfaces; 27) cup

1. (A2/40.2). D 21.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
2. (A4/12.11). D 16.0 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) exterior.
3. (A4/9.36). D 19.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
4. (A4/13.1). D 19.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, pale brown (10YR 6/3) exterior.
5. (A2/29.7). D 16.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
6. (A4/13.12). D 16.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
7. (A2/30.14). D 23.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.
8. (A4/9.37). D 12.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
9. (A4/12.32). D 10.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
10. (A2/20.1). D 12.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

11. (A4/14.21). D 16.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
12. (A2/18.15). D 20.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.
13. (A2/29.2). D 22.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior.
14. (A4/12.17). D 16.0 cm; Leiden.
15. (A2/34.2). D 24.0 cm; Leiden.
16. (A2/26.5). D 22.0 cm; Leiden.

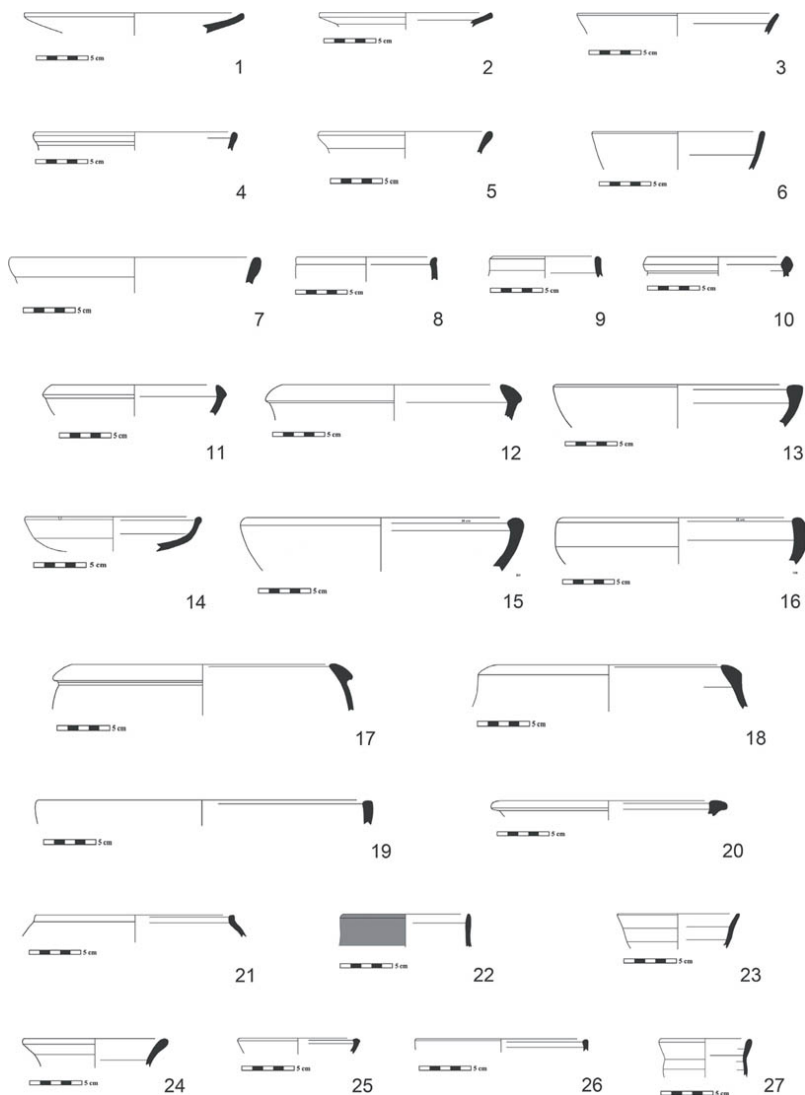


Figure 3.27. 1–26) Bowls from Stratum IIB (lower level) western surfaces; 27) cup

17. (A4/35.15). D 24.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

18. (A4/35.16). D 22.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

19. A4/14.5). D 30.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very

pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

20. (A4/12.7). D 20.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.

21. (A4/9.15). D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.

22. (A2/22.4). D 12.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) exterior.

23. (A2/29.9). D 12.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

24. (A4/14.9). D 13.0 cm; light brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

25. (A4/12.1). D 10.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

26. (A4/14.30). D 16.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

27. (A4/14.13). Cup; D 8.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric and interior.

Figure 3.28. 1–9; Kraters; 10–19) cooking pots from Stratum IIB (lower level) western surfaces.

1. (A2/22.1). D 28.0 cm; Leiden.

2. (A2/38.15). D 26.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

3. (A4/13.5). D 26.0 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric and exterior.

4. (A4/12.21). D 23.5 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

5. (A2/47.6). D 22.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

6. A2/30.10). D 16.0 cm; Leiden.

7. (A4/14.17). Ring and disc base; D 10.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

8. (A4/9.30). Ring base; D 12.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) exterior.

9. (A2/38.17). Ring and disc base; D 10.0 cm; light red (10R 6/8) fabric and exterior.
10. (A4/35.9). D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/8) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
11. (A2/18.22). D 15.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
12. (A4/14.8). D 14(?) cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3) fabric and reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) exterior.
13. (A2/18.18). D 15.0 cm; dark gray (5YR 4/1) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6) exterior, soot stained.
14. (A2/30.2). D 18.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/3) fabric, and brown (7.5YR 5/4) exterior.
15. (A2/38.12). D 18.0 cm; dark gray (5YR 4/1) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6) exterior.
16. (A2/40.9). D 24.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/4) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.
17. (A2/34.11). D 10.0 cm; dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/3) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.
18. (A2/45.3). D 9.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.
19. (A2/45.7). D 12.0 cm; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/4) exterior.

Figure 3.29. 1–5) Jugs; 6–12) Juglets from the Stratum IIB (lower level) western surfaces

1. (A2/52.21). Ribbed neck; D 12.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
2. (A2/4.12). Ridged rim; D 8.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
3. (A2/5.23). Offset rim; D 8.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
4. (A2/30.7). Flaring rim; D 11.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
5. (A2/26.6). Thickened rim; D 12.0 cm; white (2.5Y 8/1)

fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.

6. (A2/30.1). Triangular rim; D 9.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/3) exterior.

7. (A2/15.3). Flaring rim; D 9.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.

8. (A4/13.14). Flaring rim; D 9.3 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) exterior.

9. (A4/36.2). Flaring ridged rim; D 8.0 cm; pale brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2) exterior.

10. (A2/40.11). Flaring rim; D 8.0 cm; light gray (2.5Y 7/2) fabric and exterior.

11. (A4/14.16). Ring and disc base; D 7.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

12. (A2/18.5). Round base; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

Upper level surfaces (Stratum IIB–IIA, (Fig. 3.30; Table 3H)

In a few undisturbed areas in the western half of the temenos area, it was possible to identify a surface that sealed the earliest floor and provided evidence for continued ritual activity, using the same types of ceramic vessels and artefacts. This was most apparent in the case of Surface A2:9 that sealed the lower surface (A2:11); at some point, both the lower and upper level surfaces were sealed with a layer of cobbles and pebbles (A2:15). On the east, there was no evidence for a distinct upper surface, although the area continued in use, yielding a number of miniature and exotic vessels (see [Chapter 7](#)).

Continued Use phase (Stratum IIA, Fig. 3.32a; Table 3I)

Remains of Stratum IIA were more clearly defined in the western sector where a cobblestone pavement (A2:8, 15, 18) sealed against the partition walls/benches covering the Stratum IIB remains. This

covering, above Surface A2:9, gave the impression of a deliberate attempt to seal cultic objects in place (Fig. 3.30b), as in a *favissa*. However, artefacts and pottery above the cobbles reflect the same ritual activities as the earlier phases, especially in the repertoire of figurines and statues; this material extended east across the temenos area with continued use of Surface A1:24 (Fig. 3.30c).

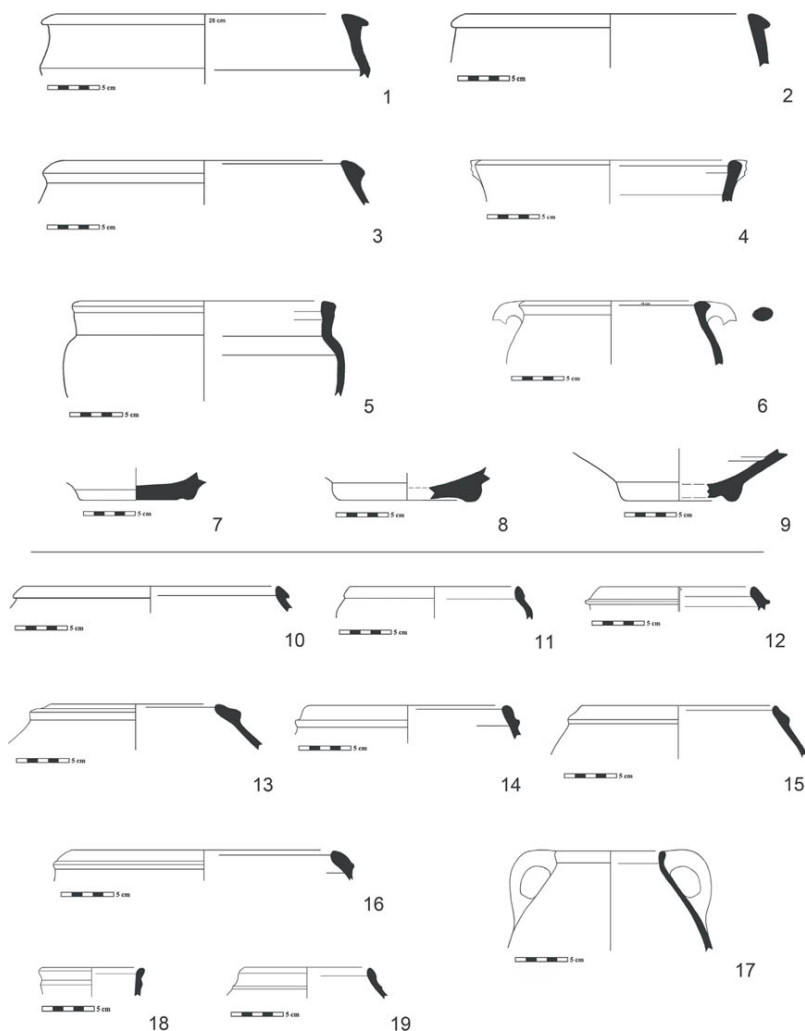


Figure 3.28. 1–9) Kraters; 10–19) cooking pots from Stratum IIB (lower level) western surfaces

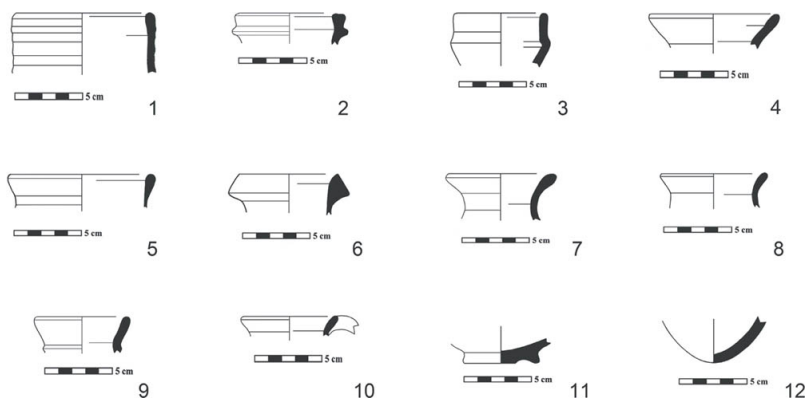


Figure 3.29. 1–5) Jugs; 6–12) juglets from Stratum IIB (lower level) western surfaces

Figure 3.31. 1–9) Bowls; 10–13) kraters; 14–15) cooking pots; 16) pithos; 17–18) storejars; 19) juglet from Stratum IIB (upper level) and Stratum IIA surfaces

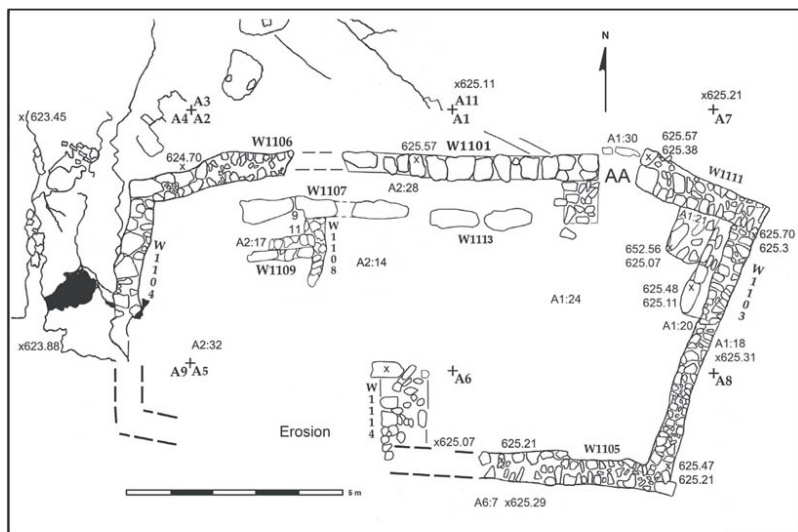
1. (A2/44.15). Small bowl; D 9.0 cm; pink (7.5R 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) exterior.

Table 3H. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIB upper surfaces

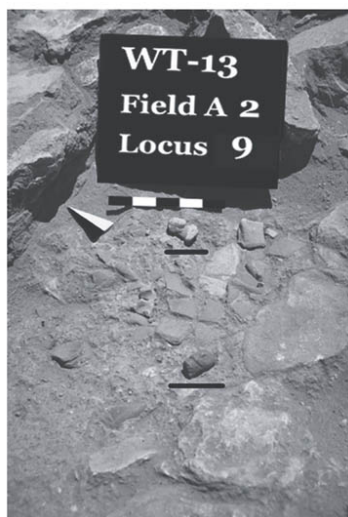
Locus	Finds	Reg. No.	Characteristics
A2:9	140 ceramic sherds	14 diagnostic sherds	
A1:24, 25	581 ceramic sherds	51 diagnostic sherds	
	figurines/ statues	WT 78,92, 165	ceramic; stone
	ceramic fragments	WT 91,320, 325,332	pillar
	fossils	WT 316	
	spindle whorls	WT 312,313	ceramic

Table 3I. Pottery and objects from Stratum IIA western surfaces

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A2:8,15,18	441 ceramic sherds	45 diagnostic sherds	
A2:53	570 ceramic sherds	51 diagnostic sherds	
A6:4	175 ceramic sherds	14 diagnostic sherds	
A5:11	11 ceramic sherds	2 diagnostic sherds	
	figurines/ statues	WT 86,94,123, 125,143,155,177, 280,286,318,319, 322,323,326,327, 334,336,337	ceramic
	ceramic fragments	WT 91,204,320, 325,332,333	
	beads	WT 281	carnelian
	spindle whorls	WT 312,313	ceramic
	fossils	WT 279, 316	gastropod
	shells	WT 357,378	murex, charonia
	spindle whorls	WT 139,276,529	ceramic
	mortars/ stone bowls	WT 311,338	basalt
	pebbles	WT 273,355,375, 377,380,532	



a



b



c

Figure 3.30. Stratum IIB (upper level) – IIA surfaces; a) plan with partition walls; b) A2:9 detail with figurines in situ; c) compact surface in eastern sector

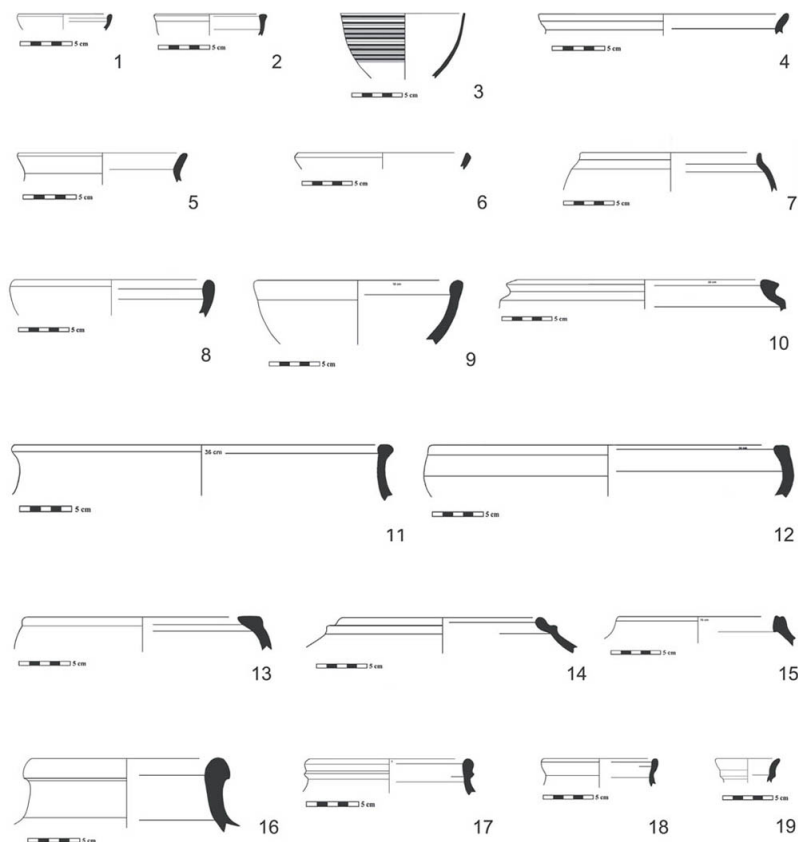


Figure 3.31. 1–9) Bowls; 10–13) kraters; 14–15) cooking pots; 16) pithos; 17–18) storejars; 19) juglet from Stratum IIB (upper level, west) and IIB–A (east)

2. (A2/44.12). Small bowl; D 10.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

3. (A1/34.5). Small bowl; D 12.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 6/2) exterior, dark gray (N 4/) and red (2.5YR 5/8) paint.

4. (A6/10.3). Flaring rim; D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

5. (A2/91.4). Flaring rim; D 16.00 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.

6. (A1/14.1). Squared rim; D 16.0 cm; (colours

undetermined).

7. (A1/15.9). Vertical rim, deep bowl; D 17.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.

8. (A2/44.6). Thickened rim; D 19.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.

9. (A1/26.1). Thickened rim; D 18.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

10. (A2/14.6). Incurving triangular rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.

11. (A2/89.10). Krater; Thickened rim; D 36.0 cm; Leiden.

12. (A1/28.5). Krater; Thickened rim; D 33.5 cm; Leiden

13. (A1/24.2). Krater; Thickened rim; D 18.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) exterior.

14. (A1/19.29). Cooking pot; folded rim; D 18.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) exterior.

15. (A1/26.2). Cooking pot; squared rim; D 15.0 cm; Leiden.

16. (A2/33.27). Pithos; profiled rim; D 18.0 cm; Leiden.

17. (A5/35.1). Storejar; ridged rim; D ca. 15.0 cm; Leiden.

18. (A1/22.1). Cup; D 10.5 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric and exterior.

19. (A2/44.10). Juglet; D 6.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior

Decommissioning the Shrine – additional evidence for cultic activity (Fig. 3.32a)

Finds from rockfall layers, bedrock crevices and eroded areas outside the temenos proper can be said with some confidence to derive from the Stratum II use phases, given the fact that ceramic vessels and artefacts mended across loci. This was especially true in the case of large ceramic statues and architectural models. Rockfall was identified all around the temenos, on the east (A7:2; A8:5, 6) outside W1103, on the south (A6:7) outside W1105 and in the damaged area in the southwest (A5), as well as west of

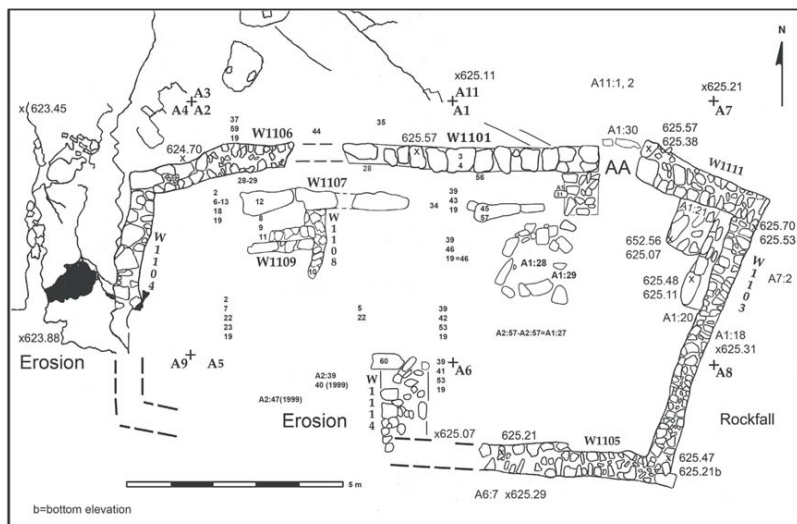
W1104 (A4, A9), where the slope was steepest and was severely eroded. Finds north of Walls 1106 and W1101 (in Squares A3 and A11:1, 2) were fewer, due to the topography. The amount of additional disturbance to these loci that occurred subsequent to the collapse of the walls and in the Nabataean–Early Roman period (Stratum I) could not be adequately determined, since small Stratum I fine ware sherds percolated into several Iron Age loci.

Based on the wide diversity of artefacts, both human creations and geological samples, it is evident that the area around the western wall and the stone partition walls was the focal point of cultic activity over a considerable period. The partition walls do not appear to have stood full height and probably served as benches on and beside which gifts were placed by the worshipers. Precious objects, exotic minerals, ceramic and stone figures representing both divine and human figures, along with architectural models were all present (Table 3J and 3K). The foreign cultures reflected in these gifts are predominantly Phoenician, with some Assyrian influence seen in the pottery assemblage, while the large local assemblage consists of a complex blend of Moabite, Ammonite and Cypro-Phoenician styles.²⁵ The combination of these influences suggests a date for Stratum II of the 8th–7th centuries (Figs. 3.33–35; see also, Chapter 6). What is notable by its absence is metal in the form of figurines, vessels and weapons.

Table 3J. Pottery and objects from Strata IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A3	3130 ceramic sherds	296 diagnostic sherds	
A4:4,6,7	1413+ ceramic sherds	diagnostic sherds	
A5	3129 ceramic sherds	381 diagnostic sherds	
A6:1,7,12, 13,25	878 ceramic sherds	73 diagnostic sherds	
A7:1,2	983 ceramic sherds	73 diagnostic sherds	
A8:5, 6	304 ceramic sherds	13 diagnostic sherds	
A9	989 ceramic sherds	143 diagnostic sherds	
A11:1,2,3	127 ceramic sherds	22 diagnostic sherds	
A10	474 ceramic sherds	202 diagnostic sherds	
Objects in all loci	figurines/ statues	WT 278,282, 288,291,307, 324,466,469, 518,521,522, 538,552,553	ceramic, stone
	ceramic fragments	WT 400,424, 459,471,473, 487, 505,513, 519, 520,527, 535,557,558	
	beads	WT 321,444, 481,499,500, 507, 516,523	glass, stone
	fossil/coral	WT 285,344, 501	
	shells	WT 330,331, 378,464,496, 526	
	spindle whorls	WT 268,533	ceramic
	stone bowl	WT 255,311	
	geological exotica	WT 525	
	pebbles	WT 448,450, 452,454,455, 460	

For more information on the pottery, see [Chapter 6](#).



a



b

Figure 3.32. a) Plan with superimposed loci, Stratum IIA features and rockfall; b) disturbed Stratum IIA features amidst rockfall

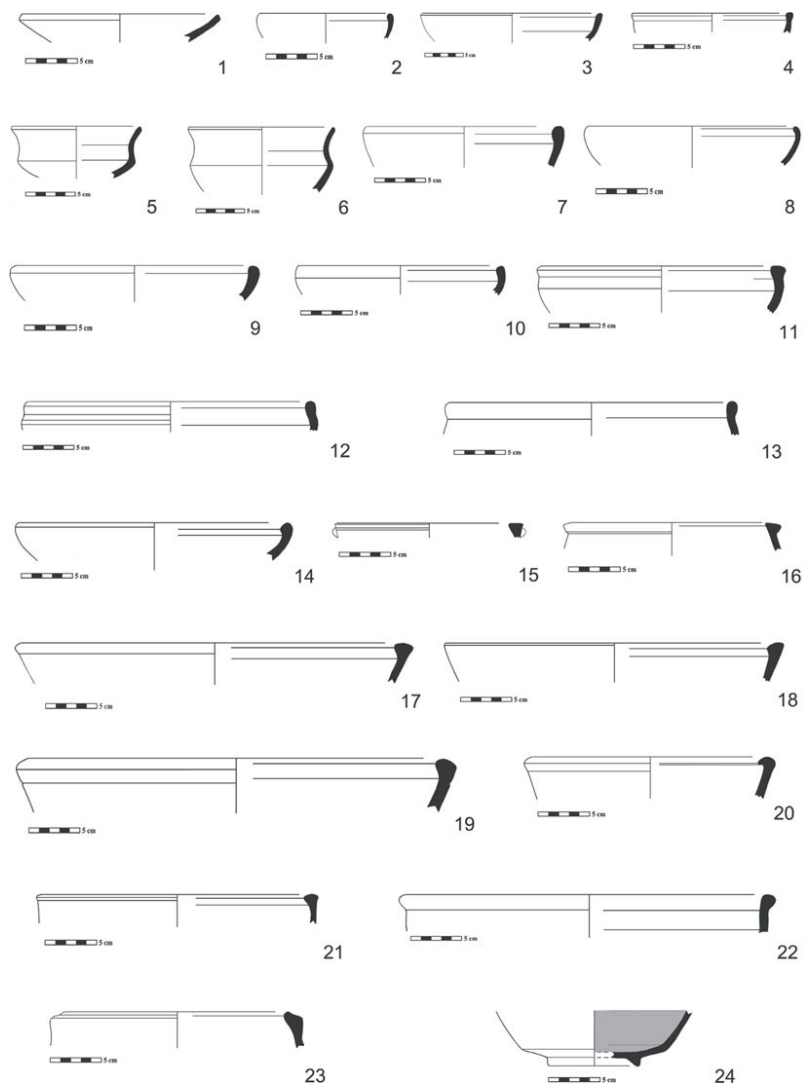


Figure 3.33. Bowls from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci

Table 3K. Pottery and objects from Strata IIA rockfall inside the temenos

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Reg. No.</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
A1:14,15	309 ceramic sherds	9 diagnostic sherds	
A6:5	76 ceramic sherds	5 diagnostic sherds	
	figurines	WT 286	ceramic
	fossils	WT 279,293	
	exotic pebbles	WT 273,498, 531	
	spindle whorls	WT 126,139	ceramic

A considerable amount of collapse occurred inside the walls when the shrine went out of use. This is seen in the heavy stone layers both inside and outside of Walls 1103 and 1105, such as A1:15, A6:20, 25 and A7:1, 2. A stone circle formation (A1:29) south of Bench A2:45 remains an anomaly. The stones seem to form a pattern, with a rough diameter of 1.58 m and a height of 0.26–0.37 m; unfortunately, the function of this formation remains unknown.

Figure 3.33. Bowls from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci

1. (A9/8.31). Saucer; D 18.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
2. (A5/23.8). D 12.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (2.5YR 8/3) exterior
3. (A8/16.6). D 16.5 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
4. (A5/23.12). D 14.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
5. A10/101.20. Carinated bowl; D 12.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
6. A10/101.21. Carinated bowl; D 14.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

7. (A5/46.2). D 16.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
8. (A5/19.4). D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
9. (A5/19.8). D 22.0 cm; gray (2.5Y 5/1) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
10. (A9/6.4). D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
11. (A9/3.5). D 21.0 cm; light red (2.5 YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
12. (A9/8.4). D 26.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
13. (A9/7.5). D 26.0 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) fabric and exterior.
14. (A3/17.8). D 24.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.
15. (A3/3.1). D 11.5 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
16. (A3/5.8). D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, red (10R 4/6) slip.
17. (A3/18.16). D 34.0 cm; light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
18. (A9/7.6). D 28.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
19. (A3/18.18). D 38.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
20. (A9/7.14). D 20.5 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior.
21. (A3/10.11). D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.
22. (A3/16.15). D 34.0 cm; Leiden.
23. (A3/18.11). D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
24. (A5/23.6). Bowl with ring base; D 8.5 cm; pink (7.5YR

7/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) interior slip.

Figure 3.34. Kraters from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci.

1. (A9/6.12). D 20.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
2. (A9/3.6). D 16.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
3. (A9/7.12). D 16.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
4. (A3/15.18). D 24.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.
5. (A9/7.16). D 40.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.
6. (A9/6.14). D 30.5 cm; light gray (5Y 7/2) fabric and exterior.
7. (A9/6.11). D 29.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
8. (A9/8.11). D 39.0 cm; yellow (10YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
9. (A9/3.4). D 28.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior
10. (A9/6.2). D 38.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
11. (A5/46.3). D 24.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

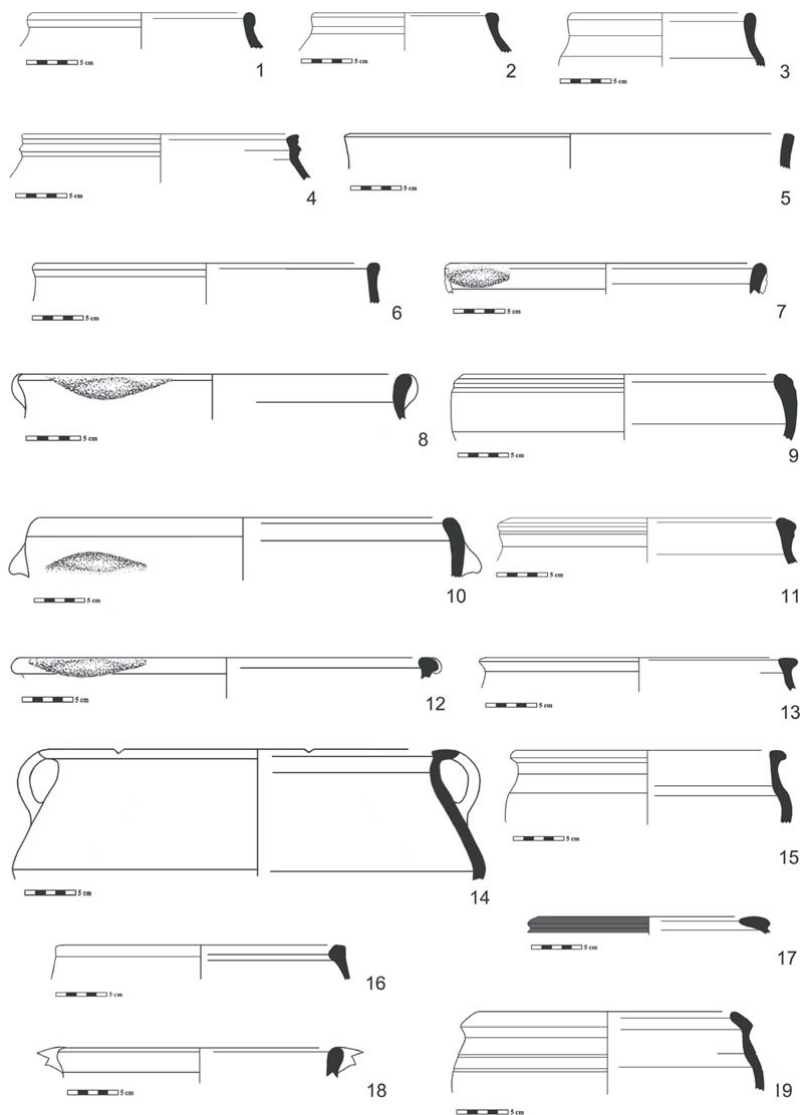


Figure 3.34. Kraters from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci

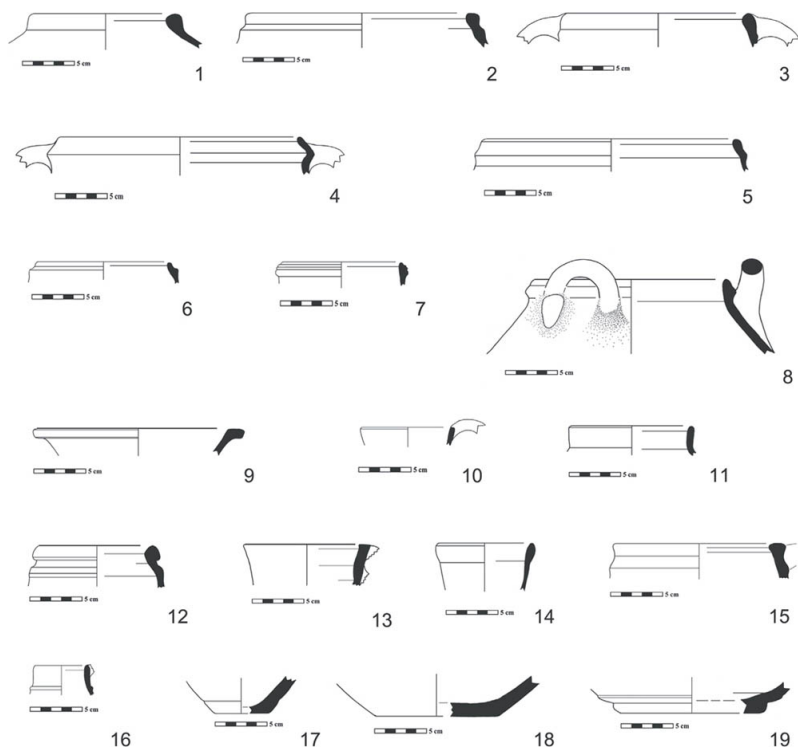


Figure 3.35. 1–8), Cooking pots; 9) chalice; 10–11) cups; 12) storejar; 13–15, jugs; 16, juglet; 17–19, bases from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci.

12. (A3/26.8). D 37.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, pale brown (10YR 6/3) exterior.

13. (A3/15.17). D 26.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior.

14. (A5/3.1). D 35.5(?) cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

15. (A9/8.30). D 24.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.

16. (A9/7.15). D 24.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

17. (A9/6.13). D 18.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, red (10R 4/6) exterior slip.

18. (A9/8.29). D 26.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
19. (A9/6.8). D 24.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.

Figure 3.35. 1–8) Cooking pots; 9) chalice; 10–11) cups; 12) storejar; 13–15) jugs; 16) juglet; 17–19) bases from Stratum IIA outside the temenos and in disturbed loci.

1. (A9/8.15). Cooking pot; D 12.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
2. (A9/6.3). D 20.0 cm; yellowish red (5YR 5/8) fabric, and yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.
3. (A9/8.8). D 16.0 cm; red (2.5YR 4/6) fabric, red (2.5YR 4/8) exterior.
4. (A5/3.9). D 22.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
5. (A9/6.6). D 24.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.
6. (A9/7.2). Miniature cooking pot; D 12.0 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.
7. (A5/19.11). Narrow mouth pot; D 11.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/3) exterior.
8. (A3/16.11). Basket handle pot; D 17.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
9. (A3/19.3). Chalice; D 16.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
10. (A3/19.2). Cup; D 8.0 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4) fabric and exterior.
11. (A3/19.13). Cup; D 10.5 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
12. (A5/48.3). Storejar; D 10.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
13. (A5/14.22). Jug; D 10.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.

14. (A5/12.8). Jug; D 8.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior
15. (A3/16.5). Jug; D 7.5 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
16. (A9/8.5). Juglet; D 2.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
17. (A9/8.14). Base; D 5.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
18. (A5/17.8). Base; D 12.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
19. (A5/2.1). Base; D 13.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.

Stratum I

The construction of two parallel walls (W1102, W1110) along the southern perimeter of the temenos, above a sequence of soil layers (A6:13) overlaying Wall 1105, suggests the final phase of activities at the site should be attributed to Stratum I. Wall 1102 consisted of a single row of large stones that each vary in shape from one to the other; rectangular, round, and irregular (Fig. 3.36). The largest stone was rounded in shape and measured 0.77×1.05 m. This was flanked by rectangular stones, 1.00–1.50 m in length and *ca.* 0.40 m in width. Parallel Wall 1110 was 0.50–0.75 m south of Wall 1102 and was formed of rectangular and square boulders. Maximum length of these walls was slightly less than 5.00 m. In this respect, they were parallel to and of nearly the same length as Wall 1101. Whether the purpose of these walls was to support the soil layers that sealed the debris within the temenos and reduce erosion, or to serve as benches, could not be determined with certainty during excavation.

Inside the temenos area, windblown soil built up between the north (W1101) and south walls (Fig. 3.36c), as well as between the severely disturbed wall stones in the western sector (Figs. 3.32b, 36b), which were subsequently toppled from their original

positions. Other than Walls 1102 and 1110, no new architecture could be assigned to Stratum I, although some walls remained visible at ground level and may have been reused. Only a few dozen Nabataean-Early Roman potsherds ([Chapter 13](#)) could be identified, along with two Late Roman sherds and one Early Islamic sherd. Of note is a stone fragment with an incised Thamudic inscription (Kerr, [Chapter 13](#)), which was contemporary with the 22 inscriptions recorded to date by the Wadi ath-Thamad survey team (H. Hayajneh, in preparation). Objects consist of one tessera, a rotary millstone fragment and an iron nail. The Nabataean-Early Roman style pottery suggests visits to the site by local residents or visitors associated with the fortified towers of Qaṣr Zaʿfaran I (WT-34) and Qaṣr Zaʿfaran II (WT-32; Ferguson 2006:278–281) and/or with the Nabataean settlement of Toga/Tawqa (WT-6), flanking the Wadi Zaʿfaran to the north of al-Rumayl (Daviau and Foley 2007:358; fig. 2). Another Nabataean settlement was located at Mudayna Thamad to the east, where a large villa and reservoir have been excavated (Daviau *et al.* 2000; Mulder-Hijmans 2006). The Iron Age pottery in the topsoil and erosion layers includes forms found in the various phases of Stratum II with kraters dominating the assemblage ([Chapter 6](#)).

The survey team collected pottery and artefacts during the initial investigation of the site in 1996 ([Chapter 1](#)). This pottery (WT-13R; see [Figs. 1.4, 1.5](#)), as well as random pottery from across the site (assigned to Square A10), is presented as a distinct group from that collected during the cleaning of individual excavation squares (Locus 0.5 in each square). Although all of this material is unstratified, it does reflect the various Iron Age phases at WT-13.

The evidence at WT-13 suggests that the Stratum II shrine may have gone out of use at the same time as the termination of occupation at the neighbouring settlements of al-Rumayl (WT-18) and Mudayna Thamad (WT-1), since the Iron II pottery assemblages coincide (see [Figs. 14.13, 14, Chapter 6](#)). What

cannot be determined without excavation is the cause for the abandonment of the impressive town site of al-Rumayl and the changes in culture and economy that brought the neighboring shrine to an end. At this stage of research, we can only assume that the same series of events brought about the end of Mudayna Thamad, although in that case there is strong evidence of an attack and a fiery destruction in the Neo-Babylonian period. Sites further north, such as Jalul, appear to have continued into the Persian period, but overall the region saw a decline in the number of settlements at the end of the Iron Age. The figurines and other artefacts link WT-13 to the sites of Tall Dāmiyah, Ḥorvat Qiṭmit and ʿEn Ḥaṣeva, sites which also were abandoned or destroyed in the late 7th–early 6th century, indicative of significant cultural change throughout the southern Levant.

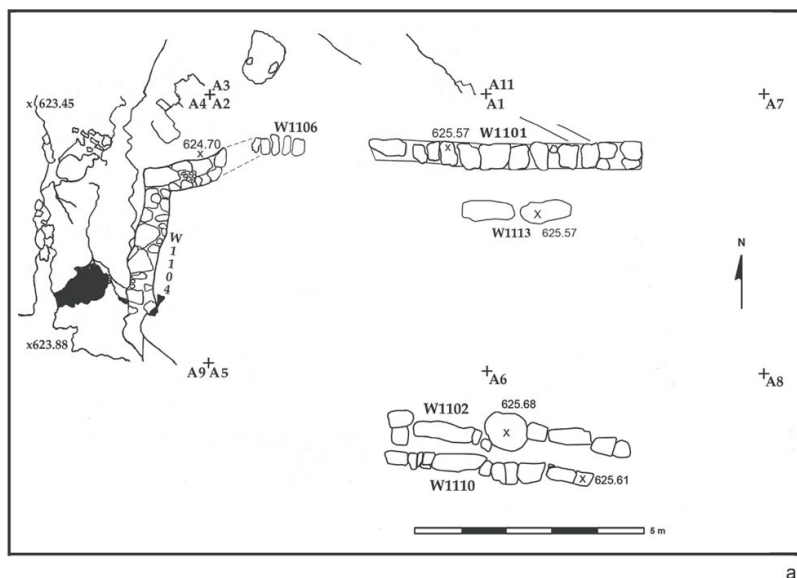


Figure 3.36. Stratum I, a) plan with new walls on south side; b) rockfall in western sector; c) topsoil in eastern sector at time of discovery

Notes

1 Grateful acknowledgement is given here to contributions by Square Supervisors, especially Alex Damm and Heidi Wilson, and by Field Supervisors Laura Foley (1999, 2001, 2003, field reports) and Annlee Dolan (2003 field report). Subsequent to earlier studies (Dolan 2007), stratigraphic, artefactual and ceramic data have been significantly expanded, updated and revised for this final report resulting in a new interpretation of the phasing and the function of certain areas.

2 Photos are from the Wadi ath-Thamad archive (see photographers, Preface); architectural plans and photo plates are the creation of the author (Daviau) and the figures illustrating pottery and objects are the work of Farzaneh Alamdehi.

3 The best preserved examples of each ceramic form are illustrated; all objects are discussed here briefly and are studied in depth in subsequent chapters.

4 Discussion of ceramic forms begins with open forms, similar to the sequence used by Amiran (1969) and, more recently for the Iron Age, by Yezerski (2007) and Thareani (2011). A number of badly broken sherds of uncertain classification and numerous bases are not illustrated in this chapter. In these cases, a sample of base styles is shown. Full registration numbers include Field + square: locus/Pottery pail • Item number (shortened for convenience to Field + square / Pottery pail • Item number).

5 Apart from the Cypriot juglet, there is only one example of painted pottery (A7/8.14; [Fig. 3.7:5](#)), consisting of a bowl sherd that mends with others from the same vessel in the overlying Ash layer.

6 At present, there is no confirming evidence that these depressions were seen as openings to the realm of the dead. Nevertheless, their proximity to the ovens and to the tombs around al-Rumayl is suggestive. Another smaller depression (A2:30), described as a possible socket, was also noted, although this may have been related to the construction of the Stratum II north wall.

7 Renfrew (2007:11) cautions against a too ready interpretation of feasting in relation to animal bones, since other explanations for food preparation are possible.

8 Although other types of cult places may also have had an oven as a permanent installation, these sites had additional components, such as a standing stone, platform, and altar (Schmitt 2014:280).

9 A second miscellaneous sherd (body, non-diagnostic) may be Roman in date, although its presence in the ash is so far unexplained.

10 Given the large numbers of bases (53), these numbers represent minimum quantities, since many sherds cannot be assigned with certainty to a specific vessel type.

11 This small carinated bowl ([Fig. 3.7:10](#)) shares common features

with a carinated bowl with crenellation from Tall al-Khalayfa (Pratico 1993: pl. 37:1) that can be assigned to the 8th–early 6th century period, showing the longevity of this form.

12 Originally, Zertal assigned this bowl type in Strata II and IB to the 13th–12th centuries.

13 Sherds from Wadi ath-Thamad Regional Survey are curated at Wilfrid Laurier University.

14 Personal communication, S. Klassen, May 12, 2015.

15 This assemblage stands in sharp contrast to that at Mount Ebal, where pithoi make up 70% of the ceramic assemblage (Zertal 1985:34; see also Hawkins 2012:54), and in a later study, Zertal (1986–87: table 1) showed that pithoi numbers are double that of bowls in both Strata II and I.

16 One gray ware bowl (Fig. 3.7:12) is an exception to this assessment. This fabric is distinct from wares with a gray core and pink fabric; gray ware is a grainy dark gray fabric throughout with a light red paper-thin margin under a gray exterior or slip.

17 Numerous scholars who study the history and archaeology of central Jordan have undertaken a review of the Mesha  Inscription (such as, Dearman 1989a; Routledge 2004; Lipiński 2006; Dion and Daviau 2010, to name a few).

18 What is shown by this analysis is that the interpretation of Stratum III as an Iron I tribal ritual site proposed by Dolan (2007:225) does not fit as well with the geographical, chronological and ceramic evidence as does an interpretation which takes into account the proximity and contemporary settlement of al-Rumayl and the rock-cut features surrounding it (Chapter 14). Ceramic forms recovered from the surface at al-Rumayl are predominantly Iron II and Late Iron II, with a small number of Iron I and Early Iron II sherds.

19 This bowl form appears to be common through Iron II, although in the 7th century corpus at Tall Jawa it was replaced by the saucer as the most common small bowl form.

20 The west end of south Wall 1105 was eroded to the east of the bedrock outcrop in Square A5.

21 These depressions were refilled between excavation seasons with wind-blown soil.

22 These loci, excavated over several seasons, are linked by their

relative elevations, similarity in composition and contents. Those loci uncovered directly above bedrock during the 1997 season were only disturbed in some areas, prior to our first excavation season (see below).

23 Mends between fragments from the lower and upper surfaces of Stratum II were common.

24 These features were architectural loci and were assigned wall numbers.

25 An unusual cooking pot form (Fig. 3.35:4) has few parallels, but is found at the fortress at Tall ʿAraʿir on the Wadi Mujib (Olávarri 1965: fig. 2:11).

Part 2

The finds from the Stratum II shrine

The anthropomorphic figurines and statues: images of gods and worshipers

P. M. Michèle Daviau

Introduction

The recovery of a new repertoire of anthropomorphic figures from Iron Age Moab adds significantly to our knowledge of past religious practice and radically alters our perception of a people's culture. It may also shed light on finds from other sites that were poorly understood when first discovered due to lack of clear parallels. This was the case with the finds from Ḥorvat Qitmit, which are now seen in a larger context with the subsequent discoveries of cultic material at ʿEn Ḥaseva and WT-13. With the complete excavation of WT-13, our knowledge of the types of cultic artefacts from Transjordan and their affinity with the material culture of other sites in the eastern Mediterranean is greatly expanded. This formal typology is designed to present the various classes of anthropomorphic figurines, statues and stone statuettes and to categorize as carefully as possible their iconographic characteristics. Parallels from sites in the Negev, the

Jordan Valley, Israel and Judah, Cyprus and the Phoenician world are included here in an attempt to determine more precisely the cultural affinities of these figures.

The state of the question

Two studies by the author provide the basis for the analysis of cultural features presented here: the initial classification of 68 Moabite ceramic figurines and statues dating to the Iron Age (Daviau 2001c), and a second study of 200 ceramic and stone figures from the region of ancient Ammon.¹ These studies were attempts to determine the variables which would best characterize each type of figurine or statue (in ceramic or stone), and the manner in which these features could be combined to form types and sub-types within each recognizable class. Here, we will retain the principal classes assigned to figurines in these earlier studies: (A) free-standing modelled ceramic figurines and attached figures; (B) pillar figurines; and (C) ceramic anthropomorphic statues. A fourth class (D) for stone statuettes is now added to the typology. Many of the female figurines and ceramic statues appear to represent well known traditions, while the male figurine heads and seated figures, as well as the limestone statuette fragments, appear to reflect different traditions, some previously unknown for the Iron Age. Among the female figurines, there are a small number that reflect Egyptian or Egyptianizing influences, probably transmitted during the Late Iron Age by Phoenician culture, which carried elements of Egyptian iconography. By way of contrast, the male figures do not represent any known Egyptian figure or striding deity represented by the hundreds of metal figurines dating to the Middle and Late Bronze Ages at Byblos (Seeden 1980); nor do they correspond to images of metal, wood, or stone 'idols' referred to in the Hebrew scriptures (Burns 1998:224–228).

While there are some basic classes that are common throughout Palestine and Syria, the particular features which determine the types and sub-types within each class of this corpus

appear to be more individualized or to represent a variety of traditions or even a synthesis of several traditions. The individuality that results from these combinations of variables is precisely what constitutes the most striking feature of the repertoire from WT-13. In this way, this corpus adds its own unique contribution to the iconography of the region.

Careful analysis of the finds from WT-13 should also enable us to define those elements of religious iconography which can serve as distinguishing marks of cultural integrity and as indicators of the degree of syncretism or multiple religious practices² present in cultic material from Moabite sites. Finally, this classification should help to clarify the diversity of religious practices carried out at the site and the position of Moabite religion in the cultural sphere of eastern Palestine. In this study, we will begin with the ceramic female figurines of Classes A and B), which constitute the largest group. Additional types and sub-types, such as male figurines, are fewer in number and are assigned to their own sub-types within the larger class. This will be followed by a discussion of the hollow ceramic statues (Class C),³ followed by the stone statuettes (Class D). The uniqueness of many of the figures and Beck's assertion (1995:27) that "detailed description of each object" is "essential for interpretation of the iconography" provides the *raisons d'être* for the extensive written description included in this study.⁴

Along with the illustrations and photographs of each object,⁵ the detailed field data for each item is included in an online archive (www.downloads.wlu.ca/WadiThamad). Some of these details are also included in the catalogue listing and in the description of all intact artefacts and identifiable fragments discussed below. Each entry contains the object registration number⁶-excavation season/artefact number (where applicable), the figure number,⁷ Field+Square : locus / pail#, object type, colours, dimensions (H)eight, (W)idth, and (T)hickness, decoration, and condition.⁸ It is important to note that the

measurements indicate the preserved portion of the artefact or object, not its original full size. The catalogue entry is followed by a description, an interpretation where possible, and parallel examples from other sites in the Levant.

THE CORPUS

Following the 2003 season at Site WT-13, there were more than 150 fragments of ceramic figurines and statues represented in the artefact corpus, as well as four small limestone statuettes. This corpus consists primarily of anthropomorphic figures, with the exception of three possible zoomorphic fragments and two feet; one recognizable fragment consists of a vessel fragment with a large foot (WT 31-1/531), while the second is the head and neck of an animal vessel or kernos figure (WT 269-4/506), and the third is an animal torso (WT 522-6; [Chapter 5](#)). This is in contrast to other known cultic sites, where both human and animal figurines appear together and, in some cases, the zoomorphic figurines constitute the largest single group of material correlates of religious activity.⁹ Indeed this was the case at Ḥorvat Qitmit in the Negev, where both anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines were part of the cultic paraphernalia. The same can be said for the assemblage from Cave I in Jerusalem.¹⁰ At other sites, such as En Ḥaṣeva, zoomorphic figures appear only as attachments (Ben-Arieh 2011: figs. 14–16). At Khirbat ʿAtarus in west central Jordan, the largest ceramic figure is that of a bull (Ji 2012: pl. 46). As well, in central Jordan at Mudayna Thamad, Temple 149 was adjacent to a large courtyard (C150), which yielded several dozen zoomorphic figurines (Daviau and Zeran 2017) and more than 12,000 animal bone fragments (Popkin 2001; 2009; Daviau and Dion 2002a); this large number is in contrast to the three anthropomorphic figurines from the temple proper (Daviau and Steiner 2000: fig. 11:5–7).

The large number of anthropomorphic figurines from controlled excavation at WT-13 and those from all structures at

Mudayna Thamad, 3.0 km to the east, are a major contribution to the understanding of religious practices in northern Moab. Their discovery has shifted the balance of Moabite figurines from a majority of surface finds to only one-third being without known provenience. This shift makes it possible to undertake a study of Moabite iconography, especially in those instances where the figurines are associated with other aspects of Moabite material culture, especially pottery. Not only do ceramic vessels assist us to establish the chronological setting of the figurines, but clay analysis of both pottery and ceramic figures may also play a part in identifying which figurines were local products.¹¹ For a wayside shrine, such as WT-13 during Stratum II, imports are also easily recognizable on the basis of the clay used in the production of certain figurines and statues.

For the purposes of iconographic typology, each figure within the class of ceramic figurines is initially defined on the basis of the style of its body, and secondly by iconographic details such as appearance (clothed or naked), hair style, position of the arms and cultic activity represented. This typology is designed to identify those characteristics which distinguish one sub-type from another (Daviau 2001c:318).¹² In this taxonomy, the various types indicate the way in which each figurative artefact was used. The fully modelled figures (A-1) were small and could be carried around and put in a variety of positions in the architectural space. Fully modelled figures could also be attached (A-2) to another artefact, such as an architectural model or serve as a protome (A-3). Pillar figurines (B) were designed to stand upright, either on their own or with a support in their hollow base; and the hollow statues (C) were also made to stand upright, either to support a lamp or some other vessel on their head or to represent a human with details of the hair preserved. With the completion of excavation at the site, it is now clear that there are a representative number of male statues and of male figurines (A-4). Less well understood are the seated figures (A-5); each one is unique and, due to their small

size, their sex is difficult to determine. Finally, the corpus contains a small number of stone statuettes (Type D), each one unique. What is apparent from both our previous study and our latest finds is that the same iconographic sub-type may occur in any of the basic types, although a certain sub-type may be exclusive to a major type.

A. Fully-modelled figures

The major types of fully-modelled figures are female figurines that are free-standing and those that were made as free-standing images and were subsequently attached to the surface of another artefact and secured in place with a small coil of clay. Protomai are also classed as modelled figures, probably mould-made. Ceramic male figurines are only partially preserved but appear to be free standing as well. For the most part, these figurines were each made in a single mould (univalve) that impressed the features on the front of the figure. The back was simply finished by removing excess clay with the finger or trimming it with a knife. The fact that none of the known figurines from Moab were attached to a tablet/plaque makes it possible to refine the terminology used in many previous studies, which had classified the principal types of female figurines as plaque or pillar figurines (Tadmor 1982:140; Holland 1977; Kletter 1996; Paz 2007). The study presented here is based instead on Hachlili's description (1971:126) of the formation processes for fashioning solid, mould-made figurines. She explains how they were finished by hand and are distinct from figurine plaques (see also, Daviau 2014b). In the case of certain male figures and seated figurines, these were made in the round, with details of the anatomy visible on the back.¹³ Secondly, our analysis is related to the types identified by Beck at Ḥorvat Qitmit in an attempt to better characterize the iconographic features of the figures represented in the WT-13 corpus and determine the meaning of these objects for ancient worshippers.

A-1. Free-standing modelled female figures

Type A-1 consists of free-standing figurines, less than 15.0 cm tall that were formed by hand or in a mould. These figurines represent the complete human body with details of head, torso, limbs, and in some instances, clothing. For the most part, this applies to female figurines, whose facial and torso features were formed in high relief on the front with little or no detail on the back side, although certain figurines in Type A-1 could be designed completely in the round (for example, figurine head WT 92-2/592, legs WT 13a+b-1/513). All figurines appear to be solid although this cannot be confirmed for those figurines that are still intact.

Several Type A-1 figurines retain a significant amount of clay around their feet and could not actually be set upright without support. The feet themselves are not completely perpendicular to the legs, giving the impression that the figure is not standing in a vertical position. This stance is not unusual and is seen in certain figurines from Megiddo (May 1935: pl. xxvii: M 65, M810), although they were probably intended to represent standing figures.¹⁴ In both cases, no supporting objects for these figures have been recognised among the archaeological remains apart from the beaten earth surfaces and benches.

The body postures of female figures in Type A-1 represent three actions; holding her breasts (A-1/a), holding a disc flat against her upper body (A-1/b), or standing with both hands at her sides (A-1/c). The figurines in this last group may have served as votive gifts to represent the worshipers, but are otherwise mute in terms of their precise cultic function.

A-1/a. Free-standing female figurines holding their breasts

The female figurines that are shown holding their breasts are clearly in a different class than the Judean pillar figurines. Firstly, only a small number (3) of free-standing ceramic figures and one hollow statue from WT-13 are represented holding or supporting their breasts; this pose is also rare among pillar figurines (Class B).

Secondly, the size of the breasts is small in relation to the size of the torso, nearly in proportion. This is not always the case with Judean pillar figurines, some of which have breasts which are exaggerated in size (Kletter 1996: fig. 4:1, 2) in relation to the total height.¹⁵ Thirdly, in several cases, the hands of female figurines from WT-13 are shown covering the breasts, rather than supporting them.¹⁶

A-1/a-1/a. Small free-standing figurines with local hairdo

CATALOGUE

WT 68-2/568 (Fig. 4.1:1; A2:2/11). Head and upper body; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ext, gray core (7.5YR 6/1); H 5.6, W 3.8, T 2.7 cm; broken at waist (Daviau 2001c: fig. 6, #11).¹⁷

WT 192-4/503 (Fig. 4.1:2; A1:14/14; M.8403). Head; pink (7.5YR 7/3) ext, pinkish gray core (7.5YR 7/2); H 4.5, W 2.3, T 2.5 cm; broken.

Description: Two female figurines with similar hairdo were probably from the same mould. One is preserved to the waist and is covering her small breasts with her hands. Each figure depicts a female with a pretty face and a distinct hairline across her forehead marked by a horizontal groove. Above this hairline, individual locks of hair are represented by a single row of vertical grooves, similar to the style of a figurine head from Tel Seraf (Tell esh-Sharif; Oren 1993:1333 left). The hair then passes behind the ears, which are clearly delineated, to fall onto the shoulders in straight locks. Vertical lines indicate the strands of hair, while the ends of these strands are rounded and can be identified as a local or Syrian style (Prag 1987:125; fig. 5). Around the neck, there are two semi-circular grooves which indicate the position of a necklace.

The small size of these figures, and the fact that the hands and breasts of WT 68-2/568 are chipped, make it difficult to determine the exact position of the hands, although the fingers

appear to surround the breasts. It is also possible that they spread over the surface of the breasts. A groove on each wrist of figurine WT 68-2/568 marks the position of a bracelet. The arms themselves are very thin, especially on the left side where there is a groove that separates the outer edge of the arm from the clay back of the torso. The evidence from the break at the waist suggests that this figure was made by pressing a roll of clay into the mould and compressing it to form the back of the figurine; a groove on the left side marks the edge of the roll of clay.

A-1/a-1/b. Large free-standing figurines with local hairdo

CATALOGUE

WT 518-6/519 (Fig. 4.1:3; A11:1/2). Head to waist; pink ext (7.5YR 7/4), light bluish gray core (10B 7/1); H 8.7, W 5.3, T 3.5 cm; broken.

Description: The largest female figurine in the corpus that holds her breasts has a head that alone measures 3.9 cm, and her features are quite clearly delineated. Similar to other Moabite figurines, her face is triangular and her ears are large and extend above the level of her eyes. Across her forehead, there is a band of hair with thin vertical grooves. There are faint longitudinal grooves in both locks of hair which are rounded at the ends and rest on her upper chest. This figurine has well-defined shoulders and arms, and a narrow waist,¹⁸ all indications that this was not a pillar figurine.¹⁹ She has prominent breasts, each one cupped by a delicately fashioned hand. The fingers support the breast and the thumb rests on the outer side.

Interpretation: The figurines that are shown holding their breasts are usually identified as goddesses, especially those whose pubic area is also emphasized. In the case of the three figurines described above, they are broken in such a way that the shape of the body cannot be determined. Other broken figurines, discussed below, may add to our understanding of this type.

A-1/a-2. Female figurine with Egyptian-style hairdo

CATALOGUE

WT 35-2/535 (Fig. 4.1:4; A2:2/6; M.8278). Head and torso of a female covering her breasts with her hands; reddish yellow exterior (5YR 6/6), very light brown core (10YR 7/3); H 7.4, W 4.0, T 2.2 cm; broken, legs missing (Daviau 2001c: #7; 2015: fig. 3:6).

Description: This naked figurine with her hands covering her breasts²⁰ is characterized by a round face, fairly coarse features, and an Egyptian-style hairdo,²¹ which is marked by a distinct hairline across the forehead and two thick locks of hair that end in a blunt horizontal cut.²² Comparable to figurines with a local style hairdo, this figurine has thick locks which have vertical lines, indicating the strands. In contrast, the locks appear to cover the ears, instead of passing behind them.

Although this figurine is broken near the top of the legs, enough of her torso is preserved to see that she was free-standing. Just like several other free-standing figurines, her back is relatively flat, and was evenly exposed to heat at the time of firing. In the case of the two better preserved figures, their back is also flattened and only the front of the body is represented in the round. This may be due in part to the necessity to support the arms, which are bent at right angles at the elbow. If the back of the torso was formed in the round, the elbows would be exposed and susceptible to breakage. Nevertheless, it is clear that these figurines were free-standing and were not supported by a backing or plaque. The same exterior fabric colour appears on both the front and back of the figurine, indicating that it was fired evenly on all sides.

Parallels

Small naked female figurines with a girdle and anklets, either holding or covering their breasts, also appear in Cisjordan as free-standing figures, although the clay framing the figure on the back

and sides may be thicker than was the norm at WT-13.

Horbat Rosh Zayit: Many of these same features are present on a small naked female figurine with short legs, anklets, and a girdle around her hips. The excavators date this figurine to the 9th century and identify it as a plaque figurine continuing the Late Bronze Age tradition (Gal and Alexandre 2000:193; fig. VII.15). In view of the number of free-standing figurines from Megiddo and from WT-13 that do have excess clay on the back, but were not attached to any other object, it is clear that these are not plaque figurines, a term that would be best reserved for figurines attached to a tablet or slab of clay.

Megiddo: Several mould-made figurines of naked females have their hands covering their breasts, rather than supporting them (May 1935: pls. xxix: M 1071; xxxi: M 3436, 634, 594, 598, 394, 3189). Although there is a small amount of clay around the edges of each figure, it is clearly the result of not trimming the excess clay after the figurine was removed from the mould.

Ta'anach: A number of free standing figurines (TT 830, 831, 641, 754) are classed by Frick (2000:105) with Holland's Type C, which consists of plaque figurines.²³ In the Ta'anach examples, the hands surround the breasts in the form of crescents.

A-1/a-3. Naked female figurines with jewellery

CATALOGUE

WT 286-4/514 (Fig. 4.1:5; A1:15/29; M.8200). Naked female, head to thigh; H 7.7, W 3.1, T 1.9 cm; pink ext (7.5YR 8/4), remnants of slip, light red (2.5YR 6/6); broken.

Description: The best preserved naked female figurine, in terms of iconographic detail, is WT 286-4/514. This figurine is preserved from her head to the upper thigh area, showing clearly the pubic triangle. Two rounded locks of hair with horizontal grooves fall to the shoulders in a variant of the local style. Around her neck is a

line and a loop, possibly indicating a string of beads, and across her belly are two incised lines representing a girdle. Her hands appear quite long, covering the breasts. The legs were apparently detailed as a groove between the legs is indicated.

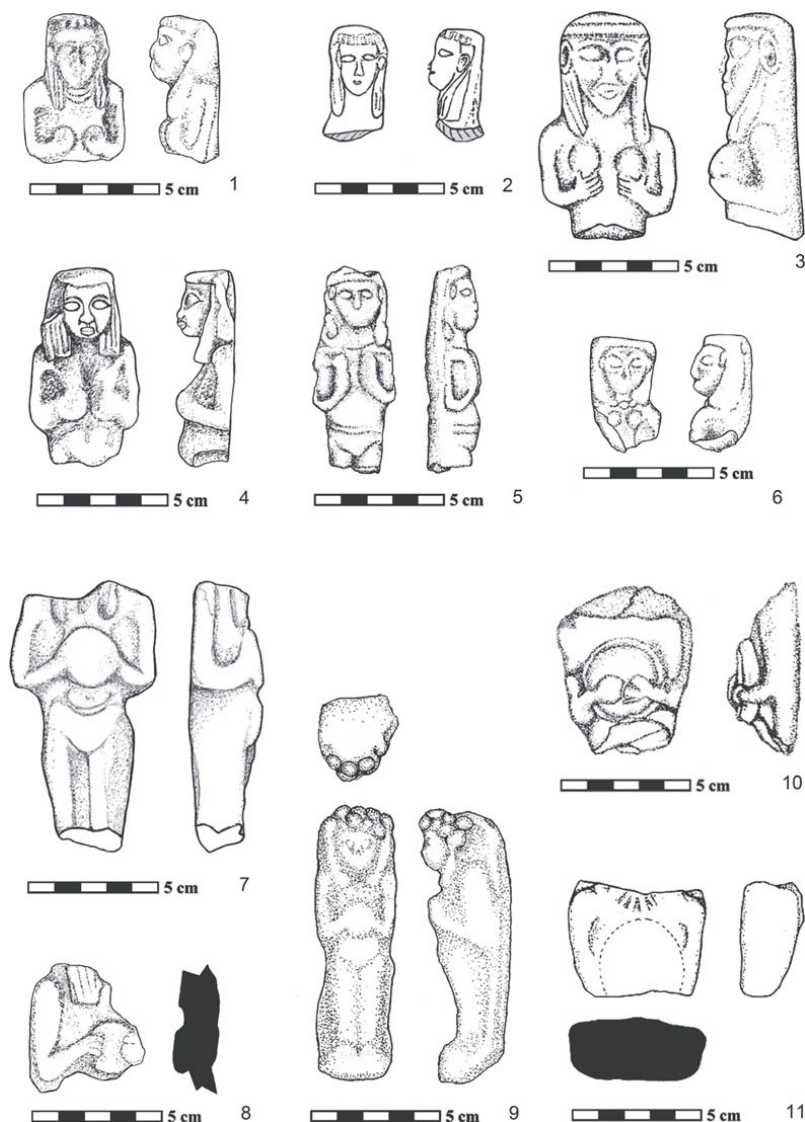


Figure 4.1. Free-standing female figurines: 1) WT 68-2/568; 2) WT 192-4/503; 3) WT 518-6/519; 4) WT 35-2/535; 5) WT 286-4/514; 6) WT

259-4/505; 7) WT 15-1/515; 8) WT 99-2/599; 9) WT 21-1/521; 10) WT 288-4/508; 11) WT 307-5/504

Technology: This figurine was most probably mould made although from the side it is clear that the upper arms and shoulders were not fully formed. Other examples with carefully delineated arms emphasize the armpit from the front, making it possible to distinguish right from left side when the arms are broken. Like several of the female figurines from WT-13, the belly of this female is slightly swollen, although it is not certain that this shape was intended to represent pregnancy.

WT 259-4/505 (Fig. 4.1:6; A4:5/9. Mould-made head and upper body; light red exterior (2.5YR 7/6); L 4.4, W 2.8, T 2.5 cm; fragment; Madaba Museum # - M.8198.

Description: A female head with narrow shoulders and high breasts has few details of her hairdo but does have evidence of an elaborate necklace between her chin and her breasts. The position of the arms remains obscure due to the pattern of breakage.

A-1/b. Free-standing female figurines holding a disc

A-1/b-1. Naked female with local hairstyle

Naked figurines holding a disc are the second important type within this class. These figurines represent a standing female with her arms bent at the elbow. Her hands hold the edges of a disc in front of her breasts, parallel to her body at, or slightly above, the waist.

CATALOGUE

WT 15-1/515 (Fig. 4.1:7; WT 13:0.5/15). Neck to knees; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/4), gray core (10YR 5/1), residue of red slip (2.5YR 6.8); H 8.1, W 4.4, T 2.3 cm; broken (Daviau 1997b:227; 2001c: #1).

Description: In this example, the fingers holding the disc and the breasts are not visible. Locks of hair, with vertical grooves

rounded at the ends, hang down onto the shoulders, just above the upper edge of the disc in a “local” style. A small protrusion on the chest between the hair locks suggests the presence of jewellery or a knot at the neckline. However, the body appears naked, with a semi-circular wrinkle of flesh at the top of the stomach, which protrudes slightly. The legs are together and are broken at the level of the ankles. The back of the figurine is flat, with no details of the body indicated. At the same time, there is no excess clay suggesting that this figurine was attached to a plaque or other artefact. The only evidence of decoration is a small amount of slip or paint preserved in the grooves between the legs and under the arms.

Interpretation: This is one of several figurines which depict a female holding a disc close to her body. This position is different from that of pillar figurines holding a drum perpendicular to the line of the body. The interpretation of this iconography will be discussed further in the final analysis.

Parallels: From Cisjordan, the majority of female figures holding a disc are shown with the disc against the left shoulder. However, one figurine from Tel Aphek does hold a small disc at the waist below her breasts (Kochavi 1976: pl. 11C).

A-1/b-2. Female with Egyptian-style hairdo

A number of figurines that hold a disc at the waist have an Egyptian style hairdo.

CATALOGUE

WT 99-2/599 (Fig. 4.1:8; A2:11/18). Fragment of upper body; pink (7.5YR 7/4) ext, gray core (7.5YR 5/1); H 4.1, W 3.9, T 1.5+ cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #16; 2015: fig. 3:5).

Description: The only evidence that this small fragment should be classified with the free-standing figurines is its size and the way in which it was broken.²⁴ Since the front appears to have separated

from the back, it is more likely that it was formed from two slabs or from a flattened coil of clay pressed into the mould, similar to WT 307-5/504. If it were a pillar figurine, a different forming technique would have been used and the torso would be round, rather than ovoid, in shape.

The right side of the body is preserved from the shoulder to the elbow, and includes the forearm, one breast, both hands and a disc. The locks of hair are depicted in the form of grooves that reach the shoulder where the hair ends in a blunt cut, or Egyptian style, similar to that seen on WT 35-2/535 (above). The arms are bent on a slight upward angle so that the disc is held in front of the breasts. Although the small hands appear to hold the edges, the fingers extend slightly onto the outer surface of the disc.

A-1/b-3. Naked female figurine with curls

The hairdo of one figurine is unique in this assemblage and can only be compared tangentially to one of the male heads (WT 466) and to a female head from Samaria (Crowfoot and Sukenik 1957: pl. xi:7).

CATALOGUE

WT 21-1/521 (Fig. 4.1:9; WT-13:0.5/15). Figurine in three-quarter relief; pink ext (7.5YR 7/3); H 8.6, W 2.6, T 2.4–3.0 cm; applied pellets; complete (Daviau 2001c: fig. 1, #2).

Description: The face is round with delicate features, round eyes, and a tiny nose. The mouth is no longer visible. The face is 1.35 cm wide, its length from the hairline to the chin is 1.4 cm, while the length of the torso from shoulder to the top of the legs was 3.2 cm and the leg length was 2.5 cm.

The arms are held tight against the body and are bent at the elbow. The hands hold the edge of a flat disc that hides the breasts. The legs are individually formed and are close together, like those of figurine WT 15-2/515. In the case of this figurine (WT 21-1/521), which appears to have a local hair style, variation

is seen in the addition of seven pellets of clay on her head, probably representing curls.²⁵ The feet are not clearly distinguished, although the change of direction at the ankles is so clearly marked that it appears to represent anklets. The feet are not flat on the bottom, instead the thick clay that lines the back of the figure continues down under the feet, so that the figurine appears to be standing on her toes. As noted above, this figurine could not stand upright without support. At the same time, there is no clear indication that the artist intended to depict a female laying down.

A-1/b-4. Female torso fragments with a disc

CATALOGUE

WT 288-4/508 (Fig. 4.1:10; A4:4/8). Upper torso; pink ext (5YR 7/4), gray core (5YR 6/1), red slip (10R 5/8); H 6.3, W 5.2, T 2.8 cm; broken.

WT 307-5/504 (Fig. 4.1:11; A5:4/23). Upper torso; pink ext (5YR 7/4), gray core (5YR 6/1), red slip (10R 5/8); H 4.5, W 5.4, T 2.5 cm; broken.

Description: Both fragments represent the shoulders, upper arms and torso of female figurines which are considerably larger than those described above. This is apparent from the width at the shoulders (5.4 cm for WT 307 versus 3.8 cm for WT 68). In the case of figurine WT 288-4/508, the disc is preserved, as are both hands which rest on its outer surface. Although more poorly preserved, WT 307-5/504 retains clear evidence of a bow at the neckline and the ends of the locks of hair just touching the shoulders. A large circular scar (D 3.5 cm) on the front marks the position of a large disc which was held flat against the chest. These discs cover almost the entire mid-section of the body instead of the area just in front of the breasts, as is the case for those figurines which hold a small disc.

Technology: The fact that the disc of figurine WT 307-5/504 was

not preserved and that there is a void between the front of the body and the clay that formed the back suggest that this figurine was formed of either a loose roll of clay or from a slab of clay pressed into the mould for the details of the face and front of the body. The second slab that formed the back was then added, and in this case, the clay was carefully finished and rounded at the back of the arms, even though the details of the body were not formed in the round. The shape of the body at the waist is rectangular with rounded corners, militating against any suggestion that this was a pillar figurine. The back and sides retain traces of red slip, although none is preserved on the front. In the case of figurine WT 288-4/508, the red slip is preserved on the entire outer surface of the figurine.

Parallels: Although no close parallels with comparable features are known for these large figurines, their shape and proportion may shed light on another broken figurine recovered from ĠAtarus, located 14.0 km northwest of Dhibân. This figure is slightly larger in size, 5.8 cm across the shoulders (Niemann 1985: fig. 1), but it has the same body proportions as WT 307-5/501 and WT 288-4/508. One example of a naked figurine torso with jewellery around her neck and both hands holding a disc comes from Khirbet Umm el-Butm in the Manasseh survey area (Zertal 2004: figs. 109, 475).

A-1/c. Female figurines with hands at the sides

A small number of figurines appear to have their arms at the sides of the body, rather than holding their breasts or a disc, although this can be difficult to ascertain in certain instances because of the way the figurine is broken.

A-1/c-1. Female figurine torso with hands at the sides

CATALOGUE

WT 280-4/507 (Fig. 4.2:1; A4:8/9). Neck to thigh; very pale

brown exterior (10YR 8/2); H 7.0, W 5.0, T 2.3 cm; head and legs missing.

Description: This figurine appears to be naked, with no indication of clothing or jewellery. The arms extend straight down on either side of the body. The distinctive feature of this figure is the form of the breasts in that each breast is in the form of a hemispherical pellet attached to the body at the level of the arm pit. The same style of breast is also seen on a small statue (WT 319-5/507).

Technology: The torso itself consists of a solid coil of clay that apparently divided to form the legs. The back of the torso is badly damaged, but the body appears to be oval in section.

Interpretation: The fact that at least one of these figurines is clearly empty-handed indicates that another tradition is represented alongside those that represent female figures holding their breasts, a disc, or playing a musical instrument. This same diversity is also present among the larger ceramic statues (Type C).

Parallels

Tel Batash: A figurine mould of a naked female with her hands at her sides has similar proportions to figurines from WT-13 in that her legs are out of proportion to the length of the body (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:204–205; photo 133). This torso is slim, possibly representing a young female.

Beer-sheba: A partially preserved figurine with arms protruding on either side of the breasts and hands resting on the torso shares a certain similarity to WT 280-4/507. This figurine is assigned to Beer-sheba Stratum VII (Brandfon 1984: fig. 25:1).

A-1/d. Fragmentary free-standing figurines

Fragments consist of heads, legs, and sections of the torso which are broken in such a way that their iconographic details are

difficult to classify. In certain cases, it is clear that the head has a certain hair style, or that the body is naked. For the purposes of this study, these fragments are grouped together. Identification of precise subtypes is also difficult because the position of the hands is not preserved and it is clear that this feature is significant for identifying and interpreting female figurines.

A-1/d-1. Female head fragments

Among female figurines, only a small number of head fragments have been recovered. In most cases, the use of a mould to form the head had the result that the head broke off at the neck, rather than splitting apart. Such a split is found in only one example (WT 64-2/564).

CATALOGUE

WT 64-2/564 (Fig. 4.2:2; A2:6/10). Right side of face; light brown fabric (7.5YR 6/3), pale yellow ext (2.5Y 8/2); H 2.8, W 2.2, T 1.1 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #10).

Description: This fragment preserves the right half of the face, showing the eye and the hair. The most distinctive feature is the horizontal hair line across the forehead and the grooves on the top of the head, a style which is comparable (in miniature) to the hairdo of a figurine from Mudayna Thamad (MT 20-1/20; Daviau 1997:226; figs. 3–4).²⁶ The lock at the side of the face of figurine WT 64-2/564 is not sufficiently well preserved to be able to determine whether it represents a local style or an Egyptian hairdo.

A-1/d-2. Torso and leg fragments

There appear to be two styles of forming the legs; in the first style, the legs touch all along their length, whereas in the second style, each leg is moulded separately, with a narrow channel between them.

A-1/d-2a. Torso and leg fragments (style one)

CATALOGUE

WT 538-6/523 (Fig. 4.2:3; A3:1/18). Torso, waist to thigh; reddish yellow exterior (5YR 6/6), pale brown core (10YR 6/3); H 4.1, W 2.8, T 2.3 cm; broken.

Description: This mould-made figurine is broken in such a way that it is preserved from the waist to the upper thigh on the front, and to the knees on the back. There is no indication of a girdle across her stomach and the details of the public area are very schematic. There is a slight ridge at the front of her waist, indicating the presence of a disc or of her hands. An almost exact parallel in size and shape is figurine *WT 15-1/515* (see above; see also *WT 86*). Another example of style one is *WT 97*, a fragment of the thighs above the knee.

A-1/d-2b. Torso and leg fragments (style two)

CATALOGUE

WT 95-2/595 (Fig. 4.2:4; A2:11/18). Legs and feet of a female; pale brown fabric (10YR 5/2), red slip (2.5YR 5/8); H 4.2, W 1.8, T 2.1 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #31).

Description: This fragment represents the lower half of a figurine of less than 9.0 cm in total height. The abdomen, legs, knees and feet are all clearly delineated. Although the details of the pubic area are not indicated, two anklets are shown on each ankle and the individual toes are separated by fine incisions.

Technology: The entire body appears to have been made in a mould in three quarter relief with a thick support for the feet and legs. This support may be directly related to the small size of the figurine. Either the mould itself was deep or a considerable amount of clay was added to the lower body, the back of the legs and the feet. A slip was applied to the entire figurine.

WT 155-2/655 (Fig. 4.2:5; A2:18/37). Torso below the breasts to the ankles; pale yellow fabric (2.5Y 7/3), pale yellow surface (2.5Y 8/2), brown slip (7.5YR 5/3), H 6.6, W 3.3, T 2.1 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #35).

Description: This fragment is broken on an angle at the waist. The slight change of direction at the edge of this break suggests the presence of a hand or the edge of a disc. The left side of the waist is missing and the hip and outer side of the left leg are broken off. Details of the pubic area are preserved and consist of a horizontal groove, a series of shallow depression representing the pubic hair, and a central, vertical groove. The legs are parallel and are separated by a channel along their length; both legs are damaged at the position of the knees, so it is impossible to determine the degree of detail for this feature. The only decoration is a brown slip that is preserved between the legs.

Technology: The fabric contains a significant amount of inclusions, consisting primarily of lithic material. The body appears to be mould made, although the details may have been added by hand. This is seen most clearly in a diagonal groove along the right side of the abdomen and in the details of the public area, where there is evidence for the use of a pointed tool. A strip of excess clay on the reverse cannot be explained satisfactorily, either this figurine was attached to another object or the potter pushed excess clay onto the back and just left it there. The remains of slip in the leg area and small amounts on the abdomen indicate that the surface of the figurine was completely slipped on the front.

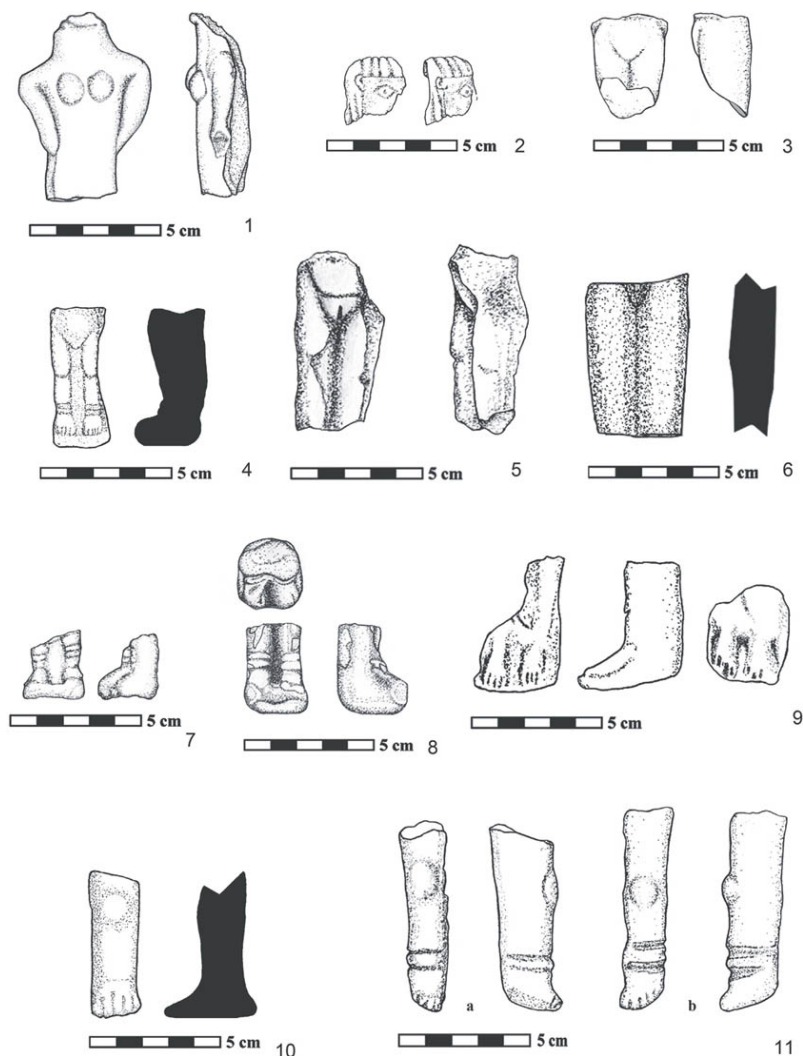


Figure 4.2. Free-standing figurine fragments: 1) WT 280-4/507; 2) WT 64-2/564; 3) WT 538-6/523; 4) WT 95-2/595; 5) WT 155-2/655; 6) WT 77-2/577; 7) WT 553-2/625; 8) WT 784; 9) WT 318-5/506; 10) WT 110-2/610; 11) WT 13a+b-1/513 (a, right leg; b, left leg)

WT 77-2/577 (Fig. 4.2:6; A2:6/13). Hip and leg fragment, feet missing; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), red slip (2.5YR 5/6); H 4.8, W 3.0, T 1.3 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #34).

Description: The legs are complete from hip to ankle, with a line

across the bottom of the left leg indicating the position of an anklet. A small area of the pubis is preserved, showing the central declivity. The legs, formed in a mould, are individually rounded and touch along their length. The shape and size of these legs suggest that they were made from the same mould as WT 155, although this cannot be confirmed because the pubic area is not fully preserved. However, the thickness (or thinness, in this case) of the figure from back to front is also similar to that of WT 155.

Interpretation: Although no iconographic details are preserved in most of these fragments, the stance of the legs suggests that they were once part of a naked female figurine.

Parallels

Megiddo: One fragment with two legs is a close parallel, even though May (1935: pl. xxx: M 599) describes it simply as “plaque type”.

Baluç: Only the feet and lower legs are preserved of this free-standing figurine, however, three bangles are clearly shown (Worschech 1992:387–88; fig. 5a–d).

Busayra: A good example of a naked female (1125) with only the area from the hips to the feet preserved comes from Busayra (Sedman 2002: pl. 10.55:a–e), where other examples of the female torso are sufficiently well preserved to indicate a naked female holding her breasts (pls. 10.49, 52).

A-1/d-3. Leg fragments

A number of even smaller fragments are described for completeness but are not illustrated here. These include WT 97, WT 76, WT 218 and WT 291.

CATALOGUE

WT 97-2/597 (A2:7/24). Fragment with two legs; pink fabric

(7.5YR 7/3), light reddish brown surface (2.5YR 7/4); H 2.9, W 2.4, T 2.2 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #32).

Description: A ceramic fragment consisting of two legs pressed together with only a few indications of their exact position in the overall length of the legs is represented in WT 97-2/597. A swelling near the top break may indicate the position of the knees, while a horizontal groove marks the line of the anklets, just above the feet.

Technology: Due to the nature of the break at each end of this fragment, one can only suggest that the legs were mould made in three quarter relief. The back is rounded and in one piece, with the legs visible only on the front. There is no slip, although the outer surface is slightly darker than the fabric colour.

Parallels

Ta  anach: A ceramic fragment (TT 1842) represents two legs side by side extending as far as the ankles. Frick (2000:107) suggests that the legs extend only from the knees to the ankles; however, given the proportions of these legs, it is more probable that the full leg above the feet is shown, since knees are rarely delineated in detail on small figurines.

WT 76-2/576 (A2:2/6). Fragment of lower legs and base; brown fabric (7.5YR 5/3), light brown ext (7.5YR 6/4), reddish brown paint (2.5YR 4/4); H 4.8, W 2.4, T 2.6 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #33).

Description: The upper part of the legs is not preserved, but the lower legs appear to be separately formed at the ankles and then joined at the level of the knees. The foot and ankle of the left leg is poorly formed although the left knee is shown. The feet are supported on a lump of clay.

Technology: We can only assume that this figurine was mould-

made. However, the poor quality of the mould is apparent in the small size of the left leg and foot, as well as in the form of the large right foot, which is out of proportion with the leg. Cut marks on the sides and back are clear evidence of careless trimming of the figurine once it was removed from the mould.

WT 218-4/718 (A2:39/54). Lower legs and base; pink-reddish yellow ext (7.5YR 7/4-5YR 6/6), gray core (7.5YR 6/1); H 3.7, W 2.3, T 2.3 cm; broken.

Description: This fragment may have been made from the same mould as WT 76-2/576, although the base support is flat, and the feet extend beyond the front edge of the support. Little detail of the feet and toes is preserved.

A-1/d-4. Feet.

A-1/d-4/a. Feet on a support

Several fragments represent the feet of a figurine without any indication of the style of the full figure.

CATALOGUE

WT 291 (A4/15.1). Feet and base; pink ext (5YR 7/3), light gray core (7.5YR 7/1); H 2.0, W 2.3, T 2.6 cm; broken.

Description: Two feet, positioned side by side, are all that remains on this support base of clay. These feet are somewhat larger than WT 76 or WT 218, indicating that this figurine was formed in a separate mould.

WT 553-6/525 (Fig. 4.2:7; A3:6/19). Feet and ankles; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4), pink core (7.5YR 7/4); H 2.3, W 2.1, T 2.1 cm; broken.

Description: The very small feet of this fragment are positioned on a base. The details of the feet are very faint but the legs are quite separate and two bangles are visible around each ankle, just below the break. The size of this fragment is indicative of a very small

figurine.

WT 784 (Fig. 4.2:8; R13:0.5/343). Feet and lower legs; pink (5YR 7/4) exterior; H 3.4, W 2.1, T 1.5 cm; broken.

Description: A second fragment also shows the legs with a separation between them and two anklets on each leg.

Parallels

Hazor: A good example of a mould-made figurine with legs apart and four bangles on each ankle is from Stratum V in Area G (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. ccliii:11).

☪*Amman:* The lower torso and legs of a female with anklets appears to be made using a single mould with additional clay remaining behind the figure (Zayadine 1973:32; pl. xx:2). Also from the Citadel are two figurines with details of the genitalia impressed, comparable to WT 155 (Mansour 2005: figs. 33, 35). Other examples from ☪Amman include two broken figurines with only the lower legs and feet preserved; in both cases, the position of the anklets is indicated (Mansour 2005: figs. 36, 37).

Tall Jawa: Nearly identical to the ☪Amman Citadel figurine is a broken naked female torso and legs (TJ 1712) from the Ammonite site of Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002:60–61; fig. 2.30:3).

WT 318-5/506 (Fig. 4.2:9; A2:53/87). Two feet on a base; very pale brown (10YR 8/2); very pale brown core (10YR 7/3); mould made(?); H 4.9, W 3.0, T 4.4 cm; broken.

Description: Fragment WT 318 consists of two well preserved feet on a support of clay that runs under the feet and extends up the back and sides of the legs. This extra clay may be an attempt to represent a human figure wearing a garment, although this is far from certain. The only indication of individual legs is the finished inner side of the left leg, which would be comparable to those examples of naked female figurines described above. However, in

this instance the feet are well formed, with three grooves on each foot resulting in four toes. In contrast to the naked figurines, there is no indication of anklets.

A-1/d-5. Individual ceramic legs and feet.

A-1/d-5/a. Single legs

CATALOGUE

WT 110-2/610 (Fig. 4.2:10; A1:1/5). Solid leg with flat foot; reddish yellow ext (5YR 6/6), pinkish gray core (5YR 6/2); H 4.4, W 1.5, T 2.8 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #36).

Description: Solid, hand-made(?) leg and foot showing the knee; incisions on the foot define the 5 toes. The bottom of the foot is flat and could have been attached to a support or to a larger ceramic feature. However, it was fully oxidized during firing and does not preserve sufficient evidence to confirm this hypothesis.

Parallels

Tell Qasile: A ceramic foot and leg, broken below the knee (Mazar 1980: fig. 42c; pl. 39:4), appears to be fully formed, similar to WT 110.

Megiddo: A ceramic foot and leg below the knee (May 1935: pl. xxi: M 504) is included with foot amulets; however, the top is not tapered and perforated as are other leg amulets (M 508, 5040, 4051; May 1935: pl. xxi).

Horvat Qitmit: Separate legs and feet appear roughly formed and unnatural in shape (Beck 1995: fig. 3:64).

A-1/d-5/b. Twin legs

CATALOGUE

WT 13a+b-1/513 (Fig. 4.2:11; WT-13:0.5/15). Two solid legs with feet, knees visible, incised anklets; reddish yellow fabric (5YR 6/6), reddish yellow core (7.5YR 7/6); H 7.4, W 3.1, T

1.8–2.3 cm; broken at thigh (Daviau 2001c: #37).

Description

These two legs were individually handmade, and then pressed together before firing, flattening the inner sides. The legs are broken mid-thigh, and probably belonged to a rather tall figure, although no other known fragments appear to belong with these legs.

Parallels

Ḥorvat Qiṭmit: Although there is no exact parallel for legs WT 13a + b, Ḥorvat Qiṭmit provides the best examples of individual fully-formed human limbs. Legs No. 8 (241/7) both show muscle structure, the knee, and separate, though stylized toes and, in this respect, share similarities with human legs WT 13a + b. However, legs No. 8 stood slightly apart on a ledge (Beck 1995: fig. 4.11, 12).

Beth Shan: Two fragments representing the lower leg and foot of ceramic figurines were present in Level VII (James and McGovern 1993: fig. 116:3, 4).

A-2. Fully-modelled attached female figurines

A number of figurines, originally formed as free-standing figures in high relief, were then attached to a second artefact, such as the exterior of a ceramic model shrine or cultic stand. In certain instances, the figurine was laid against the flat surface and a coil of clay was put in place all around the edges to seal the gap between the figurine and the object. As a result, the heat of the firing process did not reach between the two objects, leaving them underfired at the point of attachment. In these cases, the back side of the figurine is gray in colour, although in other instances the figurine was fired before being attached (for example, WT

94-2/594) and is the same colour on all sides. The most distinctive feature is the coil of clay that remains attached to the edges of the figurine (A-2/a). This clay is often of a different consistency or colour than the figurine. These female figures share the same characteristics as the fully-modelled Type A-1 figurines, both in the details of their hair styles and in the position of their hands. In certain cases, there is evidence of a bow at the neckline that suggests clothing or an ornament (WT 94), while the lower torso and legs appear bare.

In certain instances, the figurine was only partially attached to another artefact (A-2/b), usually along one side of the body. This can be seen most clearly when the exterior surface of the back side of the figurine has been exposed to heat and when there is additional clay that is very well sealed only to one side of the body or one leg of the figurine.

A-2/a. Attached figurines holding a disc

Four female figurines are shown holding a discs.

CATALOGUE

WT 42-2/542 (Fig. 4.3:1; A2:11/18). Female in high relief; pink fabric (7.5YR 7/4), pale yellow core (2.5Y 8/3); H 8.3, W 5.0, T 3.3 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #8).

Description: The upper half of this female is complete above the waist, except for the left arm which is missing; the right arm is pressed against a large disc. The face is triangular in shape and the features are crude. The eyes are lined with clay giving them an almond shape. The nose is broad and the mouth is straight with thin lips. The hairdo is well represented with individual locks shown in the bangs across the forehead and in the locks with diagonal lines that hang down on the shoulders.²⁷ Details of clothing or jewellery are represented by loops of a bow or necklace resting on the chest below the chin. Grooves on the right, upper arm indicate the presence of two arm bands.

The right arm holds the disc flat against the body; however

the hand is placed on the outer face of the disc, rather than holding it by the edges. The shape of the hand is that of a mitten, without distinct fingers. A small amount of extra clay between the right ear and the right arm suggest that this figure was attached to another artefact.

The size of this figurine and of the disc, along with the presence of armbands and a bow at the neck, make it a close parallel to free-standing figurines WT 288-4/508 and WT 307-5/504. The proportions are so close a fit that they may have been formed in the same mould.

Interpretation: The importance of the position of the hand is ambiguous, is the hand holding the disc or beating on it? The answer to this question can only be attempted when all figurines holding a disc have been presented. The options at this point are that in some cases the disc appears to represent a symbol of status, an offering, or a musical instrument. In the case of WT 42-2/542, the position of the hand may suggest a musical instrument, although this suggestion is not incontrovertible.

WT 94-2/594 (Fig. 4.3:2; A2:15/22). Female in three-quarter relief; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3); H 13.4, W 4.1, T 2.8 cm; found in two pieces; chipped (Daviau 2001c: #15).

Description: This figurine is the most poorly preserved and crudely made of the attached female figures. The body proportions are unbalanced in that the legs are too short for the torso. Most of the facial features are worn away; only a few faint grooves indicate the hair on the forehead and on the locks that fall to the shoulders. The eyes were large and round, but appear to be mould-made, which is standard for this corpus.²⁸

Indentations below the chin may represent jewellery or a bow or knot around the neck and grooves above the elbows suggest the presence of armbands. The hands are partially damaged at the point of the break, although they clearly were in position on the outer face of a disc held at the level of the waist. The stomach

protrudes slightly below the disc and a groove marks the top of the pubic area, where the genitals are indicated by a vertical groove. The short legs do not touch along their length and the feet are also poorly made, the clay being merely folded up to the ankles.

Interpretation: Figurine WT 94-2/594 shares the same basic features as other attached and free-standing figurines holding a disc, although the crude appearance of this figurine is unusual.

A-2/b. Naked female attached on one side, holding disc

CATALOGUE

WT 86-2/586 (Fig. 4.3:3; A2:15/22). Naked female in relief; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), pink core (7.5YR 7/3); H 1.8, W 4.2, T. 2.6 cm; complete (Daviau 2001c: fig. 2, #13; 2015: fig. 3:7).

Description: This figurine is very close in size and appearance to WT 15-1/515, although it is clear that they were not formed in the same mould. The face is triangular with oval eyes, plump cheeks, a full lipped mouth, medium size nose and rounded chin. The hair style is somewhat different across the brow, where the hair is divided into oval clumps rather than into separate locks, but it can be identified as an “Egyptian” style (Daviau 2001c). This is seen most clearly in the blunt (horizontal) cut of the hair locks that hang down onto the shoulders. The grooves representing strands of hair in each lock are vertical.

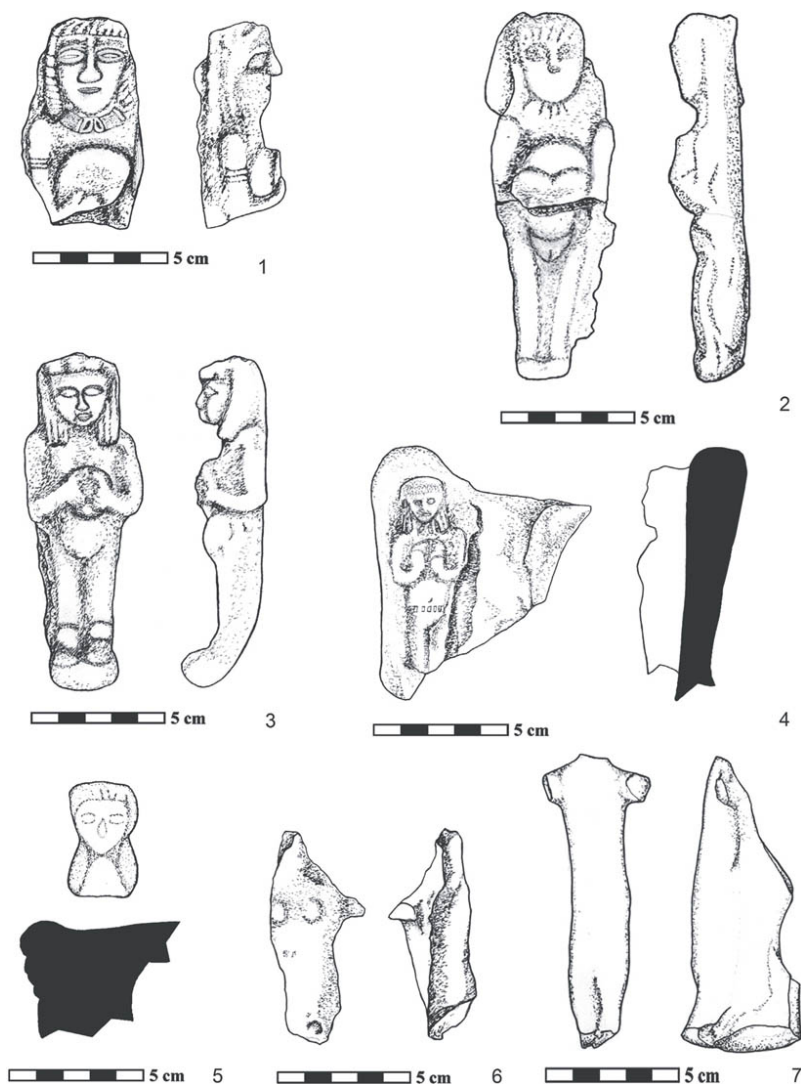


Figure 4.3. Attached female figurines: 1) WT 42-2/542; 2) WT 94-2=594; 3) WT 86-2/586; 4) WT 88-2/588; Protomes, 5) WT 104-2/604; 6) WT 80-2/580; 7) WT 179-2/679

The arms are bent and the hands hold a disc. In this case as well, the hands are positioned against the outer face of the disc, rather than at the edge. The disc covers the breasts, but the body below the disc appears to be naked, except for anklets on each leg

just above the foot. The back of the figurine is smooth and the lower part bends forward to protect the feet which have the same position as the feet of figurine WT 21-1/521. This figurine is free-standing except for the right side which indicates the addition of a coil of clay to attach that side to another artefact.

Interpretation: Two features must be accounted for in the iconography of this figurine; the Egyptian hairdo and the position of the hands on the disc. Another factor, namely that this is an attached figure, may also contribute to a better understanding of its significance.

A-2/c. Naked female attached to fronton

CATALOGUE

WT 88-2/588 + WT 89-2/589 (Fig. 4.3:4; A2:6/10). Naked female in three-quarter relief (10YR 6/3, pale brown; 2.5YR 5/1, gray core); H 7.5, W 3.9, T 2.3 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #14; 2008: fig. 4).

Description: One of the smallest figurines depicts a finely made naked female. The face is oval with round eyes, a straight nose and small straight mouth. Most distinctive is the detail of the hairdo; a clear groove marks the hairline across the forehead, above which there are two horizontal rows of minute depressions suggesting curls. The locks have vertical lines and the rounded ends (local style) fall to the shoulders from behind the ears; both ears are visible and are well placed in relation to the position of the eyes. The arms are bent and the hands hold and partially cover a disc; the fingers of the right hand are visible although it is not clear whether the hand is striking the disc or merely supporting it. Down the length of the right arm is a single row of small depressions, the meaning of which is ambiguous.

Lower on the body, the navel is visible above a clearly delineated girdle that emphasizes the pubic area; below the girdle, the left leg is broken. This figurine is surrounded by clay that

attached it to another artefact (WT 89-2/589), which appears to be the façade or fronton of an architectural model ([Chapter 5](#)). There is a second, empty space on the façade for another figurine or emblem, and its shape and position suggests there may have been other figures attached to the opposite end of the façade.

Parallels and interpretation

Examples from Cyprus of female figurines holding a disc flat against the body are depicted either naked or fully clothed. For the most part, the Cypriot figurines hold the disc with the right hand alone, although a group from Arsos hold the disc with the left hand (Karageorghis 1999: pl. lii:6–9; liii:1–5). These small figures are either free standing or, more often, attached figures with a residue of clay still preserved around the sides. All the figurines that hold the disc against their body are considered by J. Karageorghis (1999:192) to be females carrying a “tambourine”. However, pillar figurines that hold the disc perpendicular to the body are also identified as musicians (Karageorghis 1987: cat 7, 8). While these two poses are present in the WT-13 assemblage, it is not yet certain that the figurines holding a disc with both hands are merely carrying a drum. In most instances these are naked females, whereas those holding the disc perpendicular to the body and striking it with the right hand are pillar figurines and appear to wear a long skirt.

Several interpretations of the disc have been discussed by O’Byrhim (1997), who emphasizes the Aegean tradition of female figurines holding a sphere, which he interprets as a beatyl. Meerschaert (1991), along with Burgh (2006:31–40) who studies musician figurines, have a different opinion; they considers all discs to be membranophones. In his description of pillar figurines from Amathous, Karageorghis (1987: cat. 9–27) has the same opinion. Sheridan (1981:148) points to the lines of the girdle on certain figurines as a sign that a drum player figurine may also represent a dancer. One of the best parallels to WT 88 is a figurine

without provenience that is dated to the Neo-Babylonian period (800–600 BC; Sheridan 1981:112).

A-3. Protomes

Another type of modelled attached figure is the protome, which represents the head and, on occasion, the body of a human figure or animal.²⁹ The protome is first formed independently, usually in a mould, and is then attached to a larger object or tapered to fit on a support.³⁰ The best examples of this type are twin female protomes (Daviau 2001c:#60, 61) attached to the facade of a model shrine, reportedly from the Madaba area (Weinberg 1978:33).³¹

A-3/a. Female head and upper body

CATALOGUE

WT 104-2/604 (Fig. 4.3:5; A2:7/21). Head and shoulders; reddish yellow fabric (5YR 7/6), pink core (7.5YR 7/4); H 3.5, W 2.1, T 2.2 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #18; 2008: fig. 5).

Description: A complete female face and upper chest, above the breasts, is represented from the front. The face is triangular in shape with a clear hairline across the forehead that includes several grooves to represent the hair. Two locks frame the face and fall onto the shoulders. These locks have rounded ends in the local style. The sides of the head are not shown in the round and there is no indication of the presence of the ears. Instead, the back and sides of the head and the upper shoulder area are smoothed into an L-shaped projection, which was clearly attached to a larger object.

Technology: The face and upper chest area with the locks of hair appear to have been made as one piece in a mould, whereas the remainder of the protome was fashioned by hand.

Parallels: *WT-13:* Although no other face was made from the same

mould, the heads of two female figurines (WT 68-2/568 and WT 192-4/503) share many of the same facial features and hair style. However, in the case of these figurines, ears are represented.

A-3/b. Hand-made bodies

CATALOGUE

WT 80-2/580 (Figs. 4.3:6; 5.4:2; A2:2/7). Human torso; H 7.5, W 3.2, T2.3 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior; broken.

WT 179-2/679 (Figs. 4.3:7; 504:1; A2:0.5/33). Attached figurine, neck to ankles; H 10.6+, W 4.0+, T 4.7 cm; pink exterior (7.5YR 7/4), gray core (2.5YR 5/0); broken.

Description: These two figurines were hand-formed and were designed to be attached to another object, probably an architectural model. Figurine WT80-2/580 consists of the torso, neck to hip, with one and a half breasts preserved. The second figurine (WT 179-2/679) is better preserved, extending from the neck to the ankles where it is broken above the feet. There are no indications of the sex of the individual. The two arms are partially preserved and likely were originally extending away from the body of the figurine. The legs are not properly proportioned relative to the size of the body; they begin 7.6 cm from the neck and only extend 1.7 cm in length. When looking at the side view, it can be seen that the legs curved behind the figurine and were linked to another object or an architectural model. Also at the back is an additional hand-worked piece of clay extending 2.5 cm away from the figurine with a retouched curved edge which was likely a window of a fenestrated object or stand, and is shown in this study as part of an architectural model (see [Chapter 5](#)).

Technology and Interpretation: WT 179 is a crudely formed handmade figurine which contains a high percentage of coarse sand size ceramic and lithic inclusions. It is classified as an attached figurine and due to the retouched back it is likely that it was a part of a model. Given the similarity of its fabric to sherds of

model WT 100+438+490, it may have belonged to the same object and served as a protome.

A-3/c. Shoulders and upper body fragments

A body fragment of a miniature figure consisting of shoulders and upper arms cannot be assigned to a precise type, except that it appears to be free standing or part of a protome.

CATALOGUE

WT 235 (A2:39/58). Right upper arm and chest; pink ext (5YR 7/4); H 3.2, W 3.0 cm; broken.

A-4. Male figurines

A small number of ceramic male figurines have been recovered, each with its own distinguishing characteristics.³² The first male head which was discovered in Moab by Glueck (1934: fig. 6) was at Mudayna Thamad (Daviau 2001c: #58); this head represents a male wearing a headband to keep his hair in place, similar in appearance to the Ammonite stone statue of Yaraḥ-Azar, son of Zakir (Abou Assaf 1980: pl. vi). A male torso from al-Balu'a (Worschech 1989: pl. 8:2) is more difficult to identify iconographically due to the way it was broken. Nevertheless, these two finds are evidence of a tradition of depicting males in the iconography of Transjordan. This repertoire is now expanded with the recovery of fragmentary male figures, five of ceramic and two of stone from Shrine WT-13, consisting of four heads, one lower torso, and two stone statuettes.

A-4/a. Male figurine heads

CATALOGUE

WT 301-5/501 (Fig. 4.4:1; A2:0.5/1). Head and shoulders; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6), pink core (5YR 7/3); H 5.2, W 5.1, T 3.3 cm; broken.

Description and technology: This head of a male(?) figure is crudely

made, with large facial features out of proportion to the size of the head. There is no clear hairline, or details of the hair itself. Instead, the nose extends right up to the top of the head. Only the right eye is preserved; it is formed from an oval clay pellet that was impressed with a tool, making a horizontal “coffee bean”-shaped eye.³³ The mouth is a larger version of the eye, with the lips formed of two narrow ridges of clay, similar to the crudely formed facial features of WT 282 (see below) and the statues from 𐤎En Ḥaṣeva (Statues 1–3). Another ridge of clay along the right side of the face appears to indicate the beard. The left side of the face is damaged and there is no indication of ears on either side of the head. In view of the amount of damage to this figurine, it is a surprise to find the back of the head undamaged. In the centre, there is a strip of clay that represents either the hair, or the tails of a headband. Such a feature is not unique, but this example of a single strip of clay remains poorly understood.

The upper body is partially preserved, and includes both shoulders and the upper left arm. The torso is oval in shape better preserved on the left side than on the right. Unfortunately, the break at this point makes it impossible to recognize any additional features.

Interpretation and parallels: Only a few elements of this figurine’s iconography lend themselves to analysis. The hair or headband on the back of the head is similar to that seen on the hermaphrodite figure from 𐤎Amman Tomb C (Harding 1951:37; pl. xiv), as illustrated by Homès-Fredericq (1987: fig. 4), who alone shows the back side. In this case, there are clearly defined locks of hair, whereas head WT 301-5/501 appears to be bald.³⁴

Although no exact parallels are known for the facial features, a figurine with a moulded feature on the back is not unknown. Kletter *et al.* (2010) recently investigated the double moulded figurines found at Israelite sites which have a long lock of hair falling down the back. This appears to be a different technique from that used on WT 301, since in this example the hair lock may

have been made by hand and attached, rather than moulded.

WT 282-4/510 (Fig. 4.4:2; A5:2/19). Head and neck fragment; pink ext (7.5YR 7/4); H 3.3, W 1.8, T 2.0 cm; fragment.

Description and technology: There is no hair depicted on the head of this male figurine; he appears completely bald. Only a faint ridge around the chin and the irregular shape of the chin might indicate the presence of a beard, however he appears to be clean shaven like the remaining male figurines. The nose extends in a curved line from the mouth to the top of the head. The eyes are indicated by small pellets depressed with a puncture in the centre to represent the pupil. Another small puncture is located in the centre of the chin. This head is smaller than that of figurine WT 301, although they share in common the shape of the nose and the use of applied clay to form the lips of the mouth.

Due to the fragmentary nature of this figurine, one can say little concerning the forming techniques. However, it is clear that male heads were not formed in a mould as were the heads of female figurines. For the males, each head is handmade using both applied clay and tool impressions to render the details.

WT 466-6/505 (Fig. 4.4:3; A9:1/4). Hand-made ceramic head; very pale brown fabric and exterior (10YR 8/2); H 3.8, W 2.9, T 3.3 cm; broken.

Description and technology: WT 466 is the most delicately fashioned example of a male face. The head and nose appear to be made as one piece. Small pellets were attached to form the lips and eyes, and then punctured to add detail. There is no indication of facial hair. Tiny pellets were also attached across the brow to form a single row of curls. The ears were formed of minute coils of clay; only the right one is fully preserved. Thin elongated coils were used to form the locks of hair which cover the crown of the head. Because the back of the head is chipped, some of the locks are truncated.

WT 521-6/520 (Fig. 4.4:4; A3:1/16). Hand-made ceramic head; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), light gray core (10YR 7/2); H 4.2, W 2.3, T 3.2 cm; broken.

Description and technology: This hand-made ceramic head is very simple in design; the head and nose were fashioned in one piece of a very sandy matrix. Only the right eye and the mouth are indicated by slight protrusions of the clay. There is no representation of the hair; instead, the head has been flattened and excess clay overhangs the back of the head to form a droopy hat.

Parallels: Male figurines with hats are common in the Persian period, although in many cases the hat is conical and bends toward the front; Stern (1994: fig. 101) identifies the Persian period figurines from Tel Dor as Greek in style. In contrast, the hat on the head of WT 521 flops to the back.

A-4/b. Male torso fragments

Only a small number of torso fragments can be identified as male figurines. This depends in large part on the style of figurine, dressed or naked, and the preservation of diagnostic features.

CATALOGUE

WT 323-5/508 (Fig. 4.4:5; A2:53/89). Male lower torso; handmade in the round; pink fabric (5YR 7/4), pink core (5YR 7/3), reddish yellow slip (5YR 6/6); H 3.5, W 3.9, T 1.6 cm; broken.

Description and technology: One fragment, formed completely in the round, consists of the lower torso, upper thigh area, lower left arm and hand, and the penis. The right arm appears to extend along the right side of the body, but the hand is not preserved and delineation of the arm itself is slight. The left hand rests on the body, at the top of the thigh, and the fingers are clearly indicated by five grooves. The body is oval in section and appears to be

handmade, with the left arm formed separately and the hand and wrist attached. There is no decoration with the exception of small patches that appear to be the residue of a thin slip. Because this figurine was made in the round, the lower back and buttocks could be shown in detail, as is the penis from the rear. There is, however, no indication of the testicles.³⁵

Interpretation: The image of a standing male with one or both hands resting on his lower abdomen is not unique. This posture appears at Tall Jawa in the form of a silt stone male statuette (Daviau 2002:66–67); in this case also, the symbolic meaning and function of the figurine remains uncertain.

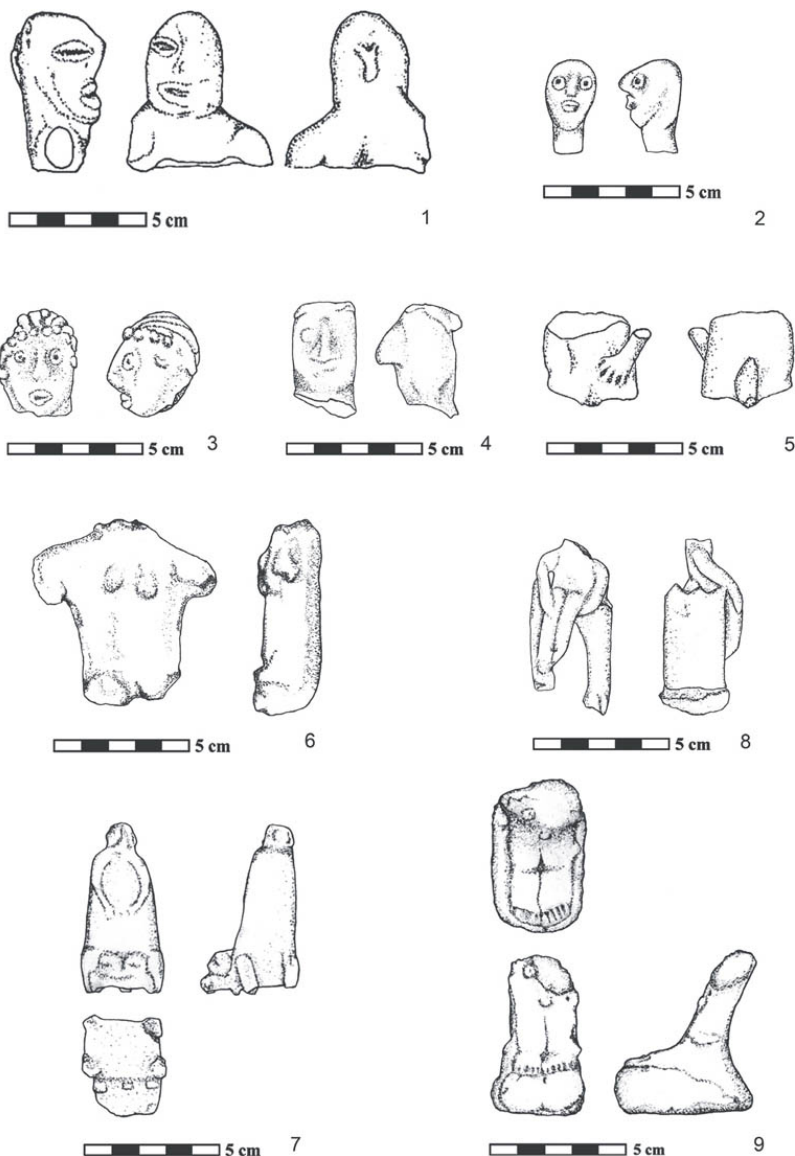


Figure 4.4. Male figurines: 1) WT 301-5/601; 2) WT 282-4/510; 3) WT 466-6/505; 4) WT 521-6/520; 5) WT 323-5/508; seated figurines, 6) WT 439-6/501; 7) WT 484-6/508; 8) WT 472-6/506; 9) WT 552-6/524

Parallels

Only a small number of naked male figurines from neighbouring

sites preserve details of the anatomy, since the most common type is the horse and rider figure from the late Iron IIC/Persian period.

Ashdod: A torso fragment of a male abdomen and upper thighs clearly shows the genitalia (Ben-Shlomo 2005: fig. 3.62:5).

Lachish: Among the fragments of Judean pillar figurine heads is a torso with hands at the sides which is described as a female (Aharoni 1975: pls. 12:4=33:1). A careful review of the photos and drawings, which show the figure from the front and the side, reveals both the penis and the testes protruding on the front of the figure, suggesting instead that this was a naked male figurine.

Mudayna Thamad: A large limestone statuette from a late Iron II context in complex 400 at Mudayna Thamad is also a unique representation of a naked male (MT 2974, Wadi ath-Thamad Object register). However, in size, this statuette measures *ca.* 40 cm from neck to foot.

A-5. Seated figures

Several ceramic figurines are broken in such a way that they appear to be seated. This type of figurine appears to be naked but is sexually generic. Only one figure is complete, a tiny stone figurine seated on a chair with a footstool (WT 484-6/508). Although it could be classed with the stone statuettes, this figurine is so small in comparison to other known stone statues from Ammon and Moab and so entirely different in conception that it is included here. This is, in fact, a miscellaneous category of free-standing fully formed figurines, since no two are of the same style.

A-5/a. Naked seated figurines

CATALOGUE

WT 439-6/501 (Fig. 4.4:6; A1:32/47). Ceramic torso, neck to upper thigh; very pale brown ext (10YR 7/3); H 6.4, W6.3, T

2.2 cm; broken.

Description: In contrast to other free-standing figurines, WT 439-6/501 has broad-shoulders with arms that extend out from the body. As a result, both arms are broken and the head is missing. The breasts are small pellets, varying in size, that are unevenly positioned on the chest. There appears to be no details of decoration, clothing or jewellery. The legs extend outward toward the front, and are both broken off close to the body. The genitalia are not shown.

Parallels

Beth Shan: Three figurines discovered in Coffin B are distinct from the female swabtis also present in the coffin. Oren (1973:124) describes these figures as female, possibly corresponding to Furumarks's "T-type figurine" with uplifted arms. However, one of these figures (Oren 1973: fig. 50:15) has broad shoulders, arms at the waist and very short legs.³⁶ The sex of this figurine is difficult to determine, because there are no obvious breasts and the genitalia are indistinct.

A-5/b. Miniature enthroned stone figurine

CATALOGUE

WT 484-6/508 (Fig. 4.4:7; A1:39/62). Complete limestone miniature; H 6.3, W 3.1, T 3.7 cm; chipped.

Description: This figurine consists of a block-shaped figure seated on a low chair, with its feet on a footstool. The face of the minute head is damaged, but a series of grooves on the back represent details of the hair. The thin shoulders and arms are outlined on the front of the block, with the hands resting on the abdomen. There is no indication of the knees; instead, the feet protrude from the bottom of the long garment that covers the figure.

Of special interest is the low chair or stool. The top edge appear to be at the level of the top of the feet, and has corner

mouldings that extend below the base to form four legs. The small footstool on which the feet rest in front of the stool is rectangular, and has six legs, one at each corner and one in the middle of each long side. These features evoke the El peace figurines of Late Bronze Ugarit (Yon *et al.* 1990).

A-5/c. Miniature figurine on a saddle(?)

Another unique artefact is a miniature human figure, fully formed and seated on a chair or saddle with long sides. The legs of the chair/saddle are shaped in such a way that they appear to fit over the rim of a ceramic vessel or some other artefact, such as the back of a zoomorphic figurine.

CATALOGUE

WT 472-6/506 (Fig. 4.4:8; A2:63/103). Ceramic naked figure, head missing; light gray ext (10YR 7/2); H 6.4, W 2.9, T 2.9 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #42).

Description: The human figure is hand-made, with minute coils of clay forming the arms. The right arm rests on the right leg which is attached to one leg of the chair/saddle while the left arm appears to be under the left thigh. A deep groove separates the figure's legs which both lean toward the right side. Unfortunately, the base of each leg is broken, but their angle gives the impression that they probably joined at the feet. Extra clay was added to secure the lower back of the figure to the chair. The chair/saddle itself is formed of two slabs of clay, the side adjacent to the figure's right arm is topped with a three-pointed crenellation. The "legs" of the seat are also slabs of clay that curve down on each side but do not appear to meet.

Parallels

Sarepta: The only figure seated in a similar position is a male figure, *ca.* 8.0 cm in height, which appears to be seated on a side saddle with his left hand holding the pommel (Pritchard 1988: fig.

10:10).

A-5/d. Ceramic feet and lower legs

The final category of free standing figurines consists of two fragments. All other fragments are related to pillar figurines or ceramic statues.

CATALOGUE

WT 552-6/524 (Fig. 4.4:9; A3:619). Feet and lower legs on a base; reddish yellow ext (5YR 7/6); H 5.7, W 3.3, T 5.0 cm; broken.

Description: Two feet rest on a thick (1.5 cm) base and lean backwards, as if the body were seated on a stool. Only the toes are clearly delineated by a series of parallel grooves. The ankles, heels and legs are simply formed. On the front of the legs there are two small clay pellets, whose iconographic interpretation is unclear. The fact that the individual legs are not separated may indicate that the figure wore a long garment, a style seen on both ceramic figurines and stone statues from Ammonite sites (Daviau 2002:68), but these are standing figures.

WT 325 (not shown; A1:25/40); leg fragment(?), light red (2.5YR 6/6), light brownish gray core (10YR 6/2); H 4.7, W 1.6, T 2.0 cm; broken.

Description: It is not entirely understood what this fragment represents. It is highly probable that it is a leg of a small figurine or small statuette that was attached to an architectural model. One end of the fragment is thicker than the other which may represent the thigh. The inside of the leg curves out toward the top of the thigh possibly where it would meet the adjoining leg.

Technology: This is a handmade object formed in the round. It is clear that it had been attached to another object due to the presence of additional clay that was added as a seal.

B. Pillar figurines

Type B figurines depict the head and upper torso of a female form, while below the breast the human shape is not shown. Instead, a conical “pillar”, hand-made of clay coils or wheel thrown supports the figure. In most cases, the pillar is hollow or at least concave at the base. Although various types of solid cylindrical pillar figures do occur at Tall Jawa (south of Amman; Daviau 2002: fig. 2.31:2) and at sites in Palestine, these types are not represented in this corpus. In the case of Moabite pillar figurines, the head may be mould made, handmade or a combination of these two techniques. In one case (WT 92-2/592) among the finds from WT-13, there is an actual peg preserved in the neck which indicates one of the methods for assuring a firm attachment of the head to the pillar.³⁷ Extra clay was then added to secure the head to the pillar and form the shoulders. This extra clay was often poorly moulded with the result that the shoulders slope low on the body.³⁸

In establishing a typology for this collection, it is important to note that no two pillar figurines are identical. All are broken and are not sufficiently well preserved in respect to their distinctive features. No examples of female pillar figurines holding their breasts are represented. The most characteristic position of the hands is at the waist, either holding a disc parallel to the body, or playing a drum which is perpendicular to the waist. While there are variations in the size of the disc, these constitute sub-types within a larger type. For this reason, the principal types are based on hair style; in this class, there are three major divisions, 1) those with local hairdo, 2) veiled figures, or 3) those without a distinctive hairdo. Torso fragments are clustered on the basis of the position of the hands, while unique heads and bases are grouped separately.

B-1. Pillar figurines with a local hair style

Differences in appearance and secondary features allow us to further separate such figures into sub-types. Type B-1 represents a

female figure having a local hair style with her locks resting on her shoulders. Unfortunately, this type is poorly represented because the heads are often missing. However, one feature that enables us to identify this sub-type is the position of the shoulders. For the most part, the shoulders spring naturally from the base of the neck, whereas the shoulders of “veiled” pillar figurines (Type B-2) are positioned lower down, at the level of the breasts.

B-1/a. Pillar figurines with a local hair style holding a disc

CATALOGUE

WT 72-2/572 (Fig. 4.5:1; A2:11/18). Pillar figure, neck to base; wheel and mould made; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6), dark gray core (7.5YR 4/1); H 9.4, W 4.5, T 4.4 cm; head missing (Daviau 2001c: fig. 3, #12).

Description: The pillar is formed on the wheel from a lump of clay, so that the base is conical in shape and concave on the interior. The solid body begins at about the level of the waist, and some of the upper body appears to have been formed in a mould. This would include the small disc held in front of the chest and the locks of hair that extend from the top of the shoulders and rest on the chest. The arms were usually formed separately and attached to the mould-made figure. That this figurine has long locks of hair in the local style is based on the very close similarity to a pillar figurine fragment from Mudayna Thamad (MT 263-2/263), which retains shallow grooves on the locks indicating strands of hair. Usually, veiled figurines do not have visible locks of hair or strands of hair on top of the head; the only hair that is visible is above the hairline on the forehead. Figurine WT 72 holds a very small disc, almost completely hidden by her hands. Since these features are part of the iconography of figurines from other sites, this type of figurine is not unique to Shrine WT-13.³⁹

Parallels

Tall Damiyah: Two examples of this figurine type were found at this Jordan Valley site, one under the sanctuary and the other in the street (Petit and Kafafi 2016: figs. 20, 17, respectively).

Mount Nebo, Dhibân and Karak: Three figurines, probably all free-standing with long, local style locks, hold a small disc with both hands just below the chin (Glueck 1970: fig. 92; Morton 1989: fig. 15; Harding 1937: pl. x:8).

Balu : A pillar figurine holding a small disc against her chest and two possibly attached figures, or protomes, also represent females with a local hairstyle (Worschech 1995: figs. 2, 4a; 4b). These figurines are clothed or modified pillar figurines.

WT 156-2/656 (Fig. 4.5:2; A2:31/41). Wheel-made pillar, limbs and features; pink ext (7.5YR 7/4), gray core (7.5YR 5/1); H 11.8+, W 3.5; D of base 6.5 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #30).

Description: The damage done to this figurine makes it difficult to determine her specific features. However, the attached right arm is broken at the elbow, where it bends toward the front of the waist. Deep gouges at waist level mark the original position of the hands and a deep depression on the right side may indicate the position of an object, which was held against her chest. Above this damaged area, there is no evidence of breasts. Of note is the fact that the small disc held by this figurine and by others in a similar position is never decorated, in contrast to larger discs held against the left shoulder, for example, those from  Amman (Mansour 2005: figs. 29, 43, with parallels at Tell el-Far'ah(N) and Tel Rehov).

Technology: The pillar is a cylinder that flares out slightly toward the base and is hollow up to the level of the hips. Several pillars appear to have been formed on the wheel and this pillar is no exception, although the interior is lacking the usual rills. The one preserved, but broken, arm was made by hand and rests against

the body from shoulder to elbow.⁴⁰ The hands and the disc or drum, now missing, were also probably made by hand, since this is common for pillar figurines. The position of the shoulders and the careful formation of the arms share much in common with those pillar figurines that have a local hairstyle, and for this reason, WT 156 is included in this type.

B-2. Veiled pillar figurines

Type B-2 includes female heads that appear to be “veiled” so that the details of the hair are shown only above the forehead and what appears to be a shawl falls onto the shoulders. In these examples, the shoulders are not usually defined but are a continuation of the shawl that forms a single unit with the neck. This shape was a means of strengthening the connection between a mould made head and the pillar by the addition of extra clay at this weak point.⁴¹ In this group of pillar figurines, each female figure holds a disc in her hands in front of her breasts. In only three instances do the females hold a disc perpendicular to the body,⁴² suggesting a different object than that carried by the majority of figurines (see analysis below).

B-2/a. Veiled pillar figurines without arm and hand details

CATALOGUE

WT 190-4/501 (Fig. 4.5:3; A2:39/50+59). Handmade pillar figurine with sloping shoulders; light reddish brown fabric (5YR 6/4), pinkish gray core (5YR 6/2); H 11.9, W 4.7, T 3.9 cm; broken.

Description: This figurine is damaged; the left arm and a piece of the base are missing and large areas of the front of the torso are chipped. The mould-made head is small (1.75 cm), well suited to the overall size of the figure. The eyes and nose are preserved, although the mouth is not delineated. The chin is rounded and does not jug out. Above the forehead, the hairline is indicated by a

single row of short grooves on a ridge of clay which protrudes around the front of the head. The top of the head is undecorated, and there is no evidence for locks of hair. Instead the veil or shawl hangs down around the neck and extends onto the upper torso.

The shoulders are not shown at the level of the neck, but lower down at the level of the breasts. No detail of the breasts are shown, instead the right arm curves gently so that the hand rests on the front of the pillar. Due to the damage on the front of this figurine, it is not possible to determine whether she carried a disc or a child in her left hand.

B-2/b. Veiled pillar figurines holding a drum

B-2/b-1. Figurine with large ears playing a drum

Several sub-types of female figurine are present among the figurines holding a drum perpendicular to the body; both those with a local hair style and those without details of their hair. One of these types represents a female with large ears, round eyes, and a sweet smile. What distinguishes this figurine from others in this class is the size and position of the ears and the elongated chin which gives the face the appearance of a male figure or animal.⁴³ Although three figurine heads appear to have been made in the same mould,⁴⁴ the appearance of this type of face does not correspond to any of the other female faces from either WT-13 or Mudayna Thamad that are usually more rounded in shape.

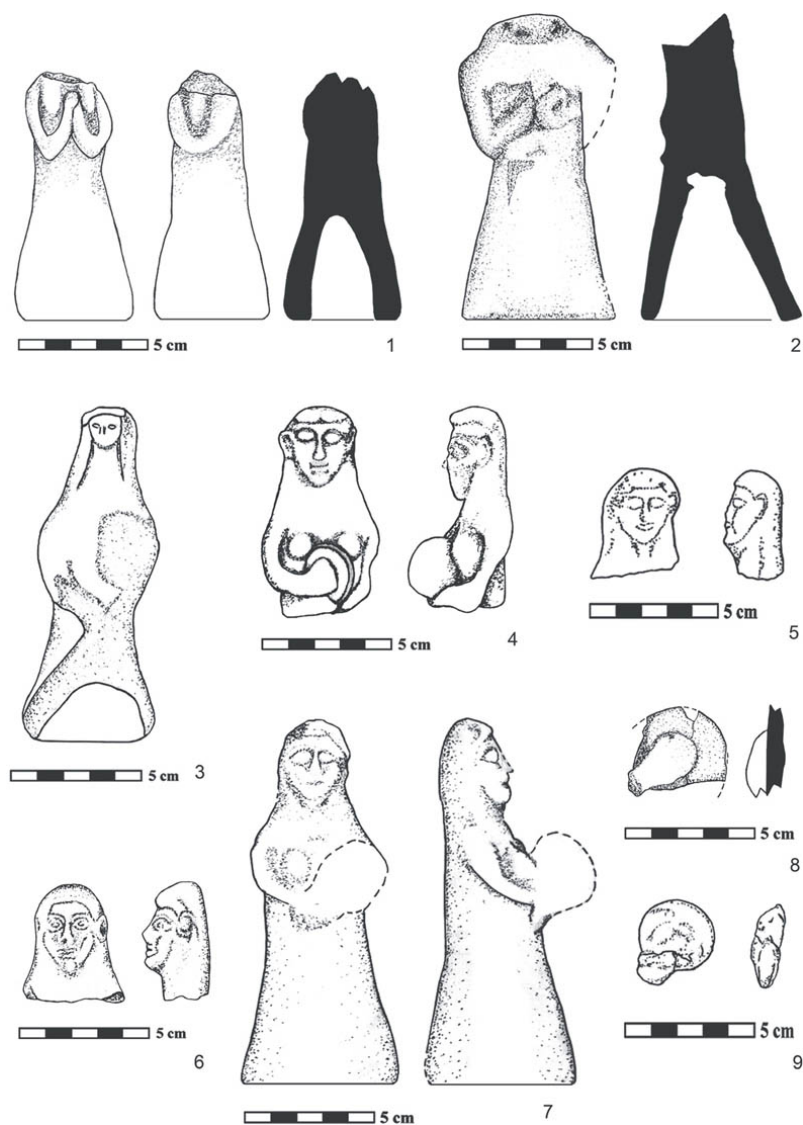


Figure 4.5. Pillar figurines: 1) WT 72-2/572; 2) WT 156-2/656; 3) WT 190-4/501; veiled pillar figurines, 4) WT 53-2/553; 5) WT 315-5/505; 6) 524-6/522; 7) WT 479-6/526; drum fragments, 8) WT 71-2/571; 9) WT 302

CATALOGUE

WT 53-2/553 (Fig. 4.5:4; A2:7/24). Head and torso; mould made

head, handmade arms and drum; reddish yellow fabric (7.5YR 6/6); H 7.8, W 4.3, T 4.0 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: fig. 4, #9).

Description: Only one figurine with a long face is preserved to the waist, supports a perpendicular disc, probably a drum, in her left hand and strikes it with the right. In the case of WT 53, the arms are small and wrap around the breasts. The hand is in the form of a mitten, with no indication of the fingers. The torso is hollow up to the lower edge of the breast confirming its type as a pillar figurine.

B-2/b-2. Figurine heads with large ears

CATALOGUE

WT 315-5/505 (Fig. 4.5:5; A6:3/7). Head; pink fabric (5YR 7/4), pinkish gray core (5YR 7/2); H 4.3, W 3.7, T 2.4 cm; mould made; chipped.

WT 524-6/522 (Fig. 4.5:6; A1:33/55). Head; reddish yellow fabric (5YR 6/6), dark gray core (7.5YR 4/1); H 4.5, W 3.7, T 2.5 cm; broken.

Description: The heads of these two figurines also have a narrow face and pointed chin. The chin continues into the neck, giving the appearance of a double chin, sometimes interpreted as a beard. This extra clay strengthens the join between the head and the shoulder. The hairline across the forehead is pronounced and the hair is pulled up at each side, just before it passes behind the ears. The ears are quite high on the head and are slightly larger than what is needed for the size of the head. The hair does not show below the ears; instead, the area between the ear and the shoulder is filled in, as if with a veil or shawl and the neck is not delineated. At the same time, the shawl does not cover the ears and frame the face as it does for figurine WT 190-4/501.

Interpretation: Although these figurines are distinct from other veiled figurines in that the shape of the face is more triangular,

they are probably a Moabite type. The head is definitely related to a pillar body with extra clay surrounding the neck area. The result is that the shawl is attached to the body. In this case also, the shoulders appear low down on the upper torso.

Parallels

Mudayna Thamad: Two heads fall into this class of females wearing a shawl; the first (MT 309-3/309) is very similar in size and appearance to those from WT-13, except for the chin which is somewhat less pronounced.⁴⁵ The second head (MT 61-1/61) is also a close parallel, although it is somewhat smaller than MT 309 and the three from the Shrine. From Glueck's surface survey (1970:94, right), comes another head of the same type. One example of a drum with a hand against one side comes from the Iron Age dump at Mudayna Thamad (MT 2320); this small find is an important link between the two sites given the numerous differences in their cultic assemblages.⁴⁶

Kition: Several figurines share one or more features with the pillar figurines from WT-13. A well-known style of pillar figurine, with spiral hair locks, holds a musical instrument in her left hand and strikes it with the right (5503). Another female figurine standing on a flat base (5571) is shown with a disc at the waist held by the left hand, while the right hand is by her side (Myres and Ohnefalsch-Richter 1899:156; pl. vi:5503, 5571).⁴⁷ Three female drummers in the collection of the Lourve have very faint details of their face and hair with the result that the shoulders are sloping. One figurine (AM 1588) strikes the drum with both hands while the other two (AM 1427A, 1427B) support the drum with the left hand and strike it with the right.

Frangissa: The rural sanctuary of Apollo at Frangissa near Tamassos, excavated in 1885, yielded statues and figurines from several chronological periods including female figurines holding a drum. Three positions are represented; one holds a perpendicular

disc at arms' length with hands on either side of the disc (ROM 925.39.9;⁴⁸ Karageorghis 2003:95; Cat. No. 147), while two figurines hold the disc closer to the chest (ROM 925x56.35, 50), while 3 have their left hand supporting the disc on the bottom (ROM 925x56.44, 47, 52). In one instance, the disc has a flattened, rather than rounded, edge (ROM 925x56.42).

Dali: A broken figurine with red and black paint on its face and upper torso also strikes the drum with the right hand (Collection of the Louvre, N 2562).

B-3/c. Pillar figurine with drum missing

CATALOGUE

WT 479-6/526 (Fig. 4.5:7; A1:28/59). Head to base; light reddish brown fabric (5YR 6/4), light bluish gray core (10B 7/1); H. 13.5, W 5.6 cm; restored; chipped.

Description: Pillar figurine WT 479-6/526 can be classed with those wearing a veil since there is no evidence of locks of hair on the shoulders and the area above the shoulders slopes gradually up to the head, although the veil is not shown framing the face as it is with Figurine WT 190-4/501. The head was mould-made with relatively large features. The small right arm bends gently under the breast and meets the fragmentary remains of the left hand. The left side is damaged and the arm is missing. A deep vertical groove between the breasts suggests the position of a drum held perpendicular to the body. This position is similar to that of better preserved examples of drum players that also appear in the form of pillar figurines (see Type B-3). The base was built up of coils, rather than on the wheel, creating a thick bottom lip to support the figurine.

Parallels

Tyre: Phoenician pillar figurines are typically cylindrical below the breast, flaring out just above the base. Various hair styles are

represented, however one example from Tyre has only a few details of hair shown because the clay to support the arms extends up to the neck. This female figure (Beirut, inv 879) holds a disc in her left hand, striking the disc with her right (Doumet-Serhal 1998:155). Another Iron II example has long twisted locks hanging onto her shoulders. This figurine holds the disc on the diagonal with her left hand (Bikai 1978: pl. lxxxi:2).

Cyprus: Burgh illustrates a complete figurine of a drummer who holds the drum vertically between the breasts; unfortunately this figurine is without provenance, however Burgh (2006:79–80; fig. 3.17) assigns it to the Cypro-Phoenician tradition.

Tall al-Mazar (Jordan Valley): Among a small number of pillar figurines from Building Complex 300 on the mound is one figurine holding a large drum perpendicular to its body and striking it with the right hand (Yassine 1988: pl. xiii: fig. 4, upper right).

B-4. Fragments of pillar figurines

B-4/a. Discs and hands

At WT-13, a number of figurines that carry discs were found with the disc missing; conversely, several discs, sometimes with hands attached, were found at random. Small fragments include the hand and a portion of the drum, such as WT 71.

CATALOGUE

WT 71-2/571 (Fig. 4.5:8; A2:2.2). Disc with one hand; light brown fabric (7.5YR 6/4); D ca. 4.0; fragment.

WT 302 (Fig. 4.5:9; A2:0.5/68). Disc with one hand; pink fabric (5YR 7/4), pinkish white core (7.5YR 8/2); D 2.8, T 0.7 cm; fragment.

WT 260 (A2:39/57). Half drum fragment; pink exterior (5YR 7/4); D 3.3 cm; fragment.

Parallels

Sarepta: A drum and hand fragment is comparable to a larger figurine fragment showing the right shoulder, breast, arm and drum (Pritchard 1988: fig. 11:30 and 29). These hands are without details and appear as extensions of the arm, whereas on two other drum fragments the hand is in the shape of a mitten (Pritchard 1988: fig. 12:31, 32).

Hazor: One fragment of a figurine holding a disc was found in a fill in Area L (the water system). This fragment consists of a disc and the remains of two hands which have the appearance of mittens. Although Garfinkel and Greenberg (1997:282, photo III.78a-b, fig. III.49:1) describe the hands as holding the edge of the disc, this is not shown in the illustrations since one hand appears to clasp the edge and the other is on the outer surface of the disc.

Yoque  *am*: A complete disc supported by the left hand and struck by the right retains a fragment of the body of the figurine (Tadmor 2005:354–355; photo III.9=fig. III.9). Tadmor identifies the disc as a drum.

Ḥorvat Qitmit: Ceramic fragments representing “tambourines”, some with a hand clutching the edge or with one or two hands lying flat on the outer surface, are reported by Beck (1995:161–166; fig. 3.112:193–198) in her discussion of musical instruments. These range in size from 3.0–5.0 cm.

B-4/b. Upper body fragments

B-4/b-1. Arm and shoulder

CATALOGUE

WT 327 (A6:3/8). Arm; pink fabric (7.5YR 8/4), very pale brown core (10YR 7/3); H 2.6, W 1.6; fragment.

Description: WT 327 preserves part of the left arm of a figurine from shoulder to forearm. The shoulder has a squared shaped and protrudes from the body 0.9 cm. The arm lays flat against the body although the underarm region has a space so that it is was

not attached to the body along its entire length.

Technology: This shoulder piece was handmade from a rolled piece of clay and then pressed onto the body and shaped to form a shoulder and arm. The piece of clay was secured by additional clay which can be seen in the shoulder region.

B-4/b-2 Arm fragments

A number of ceramic fragments appear to be small arms most probably from pillar figurines since they were made separately. Each fragment is sub-round in section and slightly curved along its length. Two arm fragments are incised, suggesting the presence of an arm band (WT 5 and WT 147), while two others have the hand curving to support an object (WT 407 and 459).

CATALOGUE

WT 5 (WT-13:0.5/15). Arm; reddish yellow exterior (5YR 7/6); L 3.3, T 0.8–1.0 cm; fragment.

WT 147 (A2:7/28). Upper arm; light red exterior (2.5YR 6/6); L 4.5, W 1.4, T 1.2 cm: fragment.

Other examples include WT 114, 141a + b, 203, 221, 234, 322, 396, 397, 398, 402, 407, 459, 489, 551, 556 and 565.

One fragment of the upper body with a scar marking the position of the arm across the torso (WT 30) is alone in this corpus.

B-4/c. Pillar figurine heads

A small number of heads may be associated with pillar figurines, although their style does not allow them to be included in a distinct type or sub-type, with the exception of head WT 92.

B-4/c-1. Figurine head and shoulder

CATALOGUE

WT 92-2/592 (Fig. 4.6:1; A2:9/14.1). Head; yellowish brown

fabric (10YR 6/4), reddish yellow exterior (5YR 6/6), dark red slip (2.5YR 4/6); H 6.8, W 5.0, T 3.8 cm; worn (Daviau 2001c: #17; 2015: fig.3:3).

Description: Although WT 92-2/592 is extremely worn on the front outer surface, it appeared initially to represent an animal (lion), rather than a human figure. What can be said is that there is evidence on the forehead and below the ears of strands of hair falling to the shoulders. The hair is somewhat different from both the local style and the Egyptian hairdo, where only one discrete lock falls on each shoulder. In this case, the hair is not gathered into a lock but is shown in detail all around the head in wavy vertical incised lines. At the level of the shoulders, there is a horizontal groove, apparently where the pillar was attached, since the peg is clearly visible where the head broke off of the pillar. However, the grooves representing the strands of hair continue beyond this break. Only one ear, the right one, is preserved and appears quite large in relation to the other features.

Technology: The facial features of this large head were probably formed in a mould although the back is more rounded than most other single mould figurines. The details of the hair were clearly incised by hand after the head had been attached to a pillar which was made separately.

Interpretation and parallels: Due to the damage to the face and the lack of the upper torso and arms, it is difficult to identify with certainty the iconographic features of the complete figurine. However, the fact that the head was formed in the round with a unique hairdo clearly represents a different tradition than the other types of pillar figurines. A close parallel is represented by a dolomite statue head from the Amman area (Amr 1987: pl. I) which also has incised hair locks on the back and a horizontal break at chin level between the upper and lower locks. Other possible comparisons are with figurines representing Sekhmet, such as a figurine with a female face and Hathor features from the

front and a lioness profile from Tall Zira'a (Vieweger and Häser 2008:389; Häser and Vieweger 2009: fig. 8). Another example is a faience figurine (IAA 1987-14) with a female body, Egyptian wig and lion's face from the 8th century BC citadel at Tell esh-Shari'a (Oren and Netzer 1974: pl. 57:E).

B-4/c-2. Female figurine head

CATALOGUE

WT 306-5/503 (Fig. 4.6:2; A2:0.5/68). Head, pink fabric (5YR 7/4), pinkish gray core (5YR 6/2); H 4.1, W 3.5, T 3.0 cm; broken.

Description: This mould-made face is one of the most beautiful in the corpus; it has excellent proportions, except for the ears, which are slightly too high. The hair across the forehead is represented by a protruding band of clay with parallel grooves, and the locks below the ears have diagonal depressions representing twisted or curled locks.⁴⁹ The mouth has thin lips with a slight twist on the right side that may indicate a smile.

Technology: The face was made in a mould that included all the facial features, as well as the ears and the hair locks. The point at which the mould ended is clearly represented by a ridge of extra clay. It is very clear in the break at the level of the neck that the clay itself had been rolled from one side to the other, before being pressed into the mould.

B-4/c-3. Figurine head with long neck

CATALOGUE

WT 324-5/509 (Fig. 4.6:3; A5:11/36). Head, pink fabric (5YR 7/3), gray core (N5/); H 4.5, W 3.1, T 3.2 cm; broken and worn.

Description: Slightly smaller in every respect in comparison with head WT 306, the features and details of the hair of this figurine

are in very low relief. Only the band of hair across the forehead, and the eyebrows are distinct.

Technology: This head was mould-made on the front and cut rather crudely on the back. There is an additional lump of clay on the right side below the ear, possibly added to attach the head to the body.

B-5. Pillar figurine torso fragments

Only one large and two small fragments of torso can be described.

CATALOGUE

WT 495-6 (Fig. 4.6:4; A1:28/60). Upper body and back of pillar; light reddish brown surface (5YR 6/4); H 5.1, W 3.9, T 3.1 cm; broken.

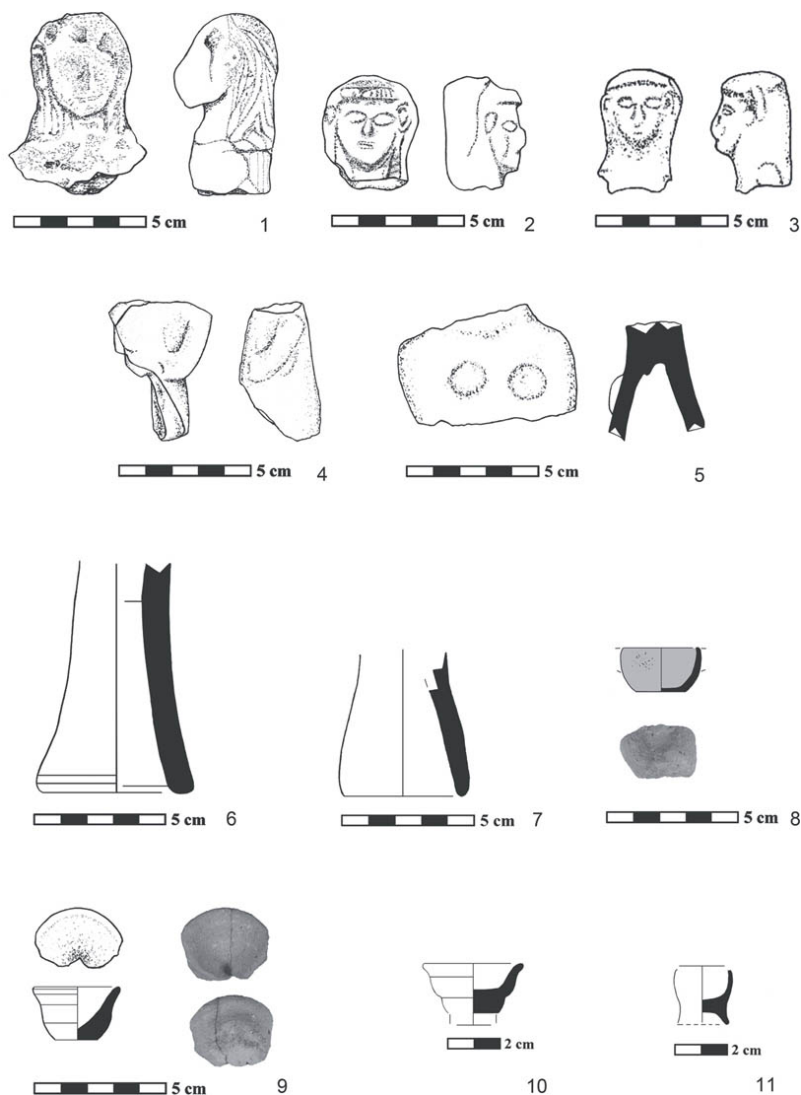


Figure 4.6. Pillar figurine heads: 1) WT 92-2/592; 2) WT 306-5/503; 3) WT 324-5/509; pillar figurine torso fragments, 4) WT 495-6; 5) WT 319-5/507; pillar figurine bases; 6) WT 171-6/671; 7) WT 358-2/558; attachments, 8) WT 23-1; 9) WT 429; 10) WT 349; 11) WT 387-5

WT 292-3/792 (A10:0.5/0). Upper torso fragment; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), gray core (10YR 5/1); H 3.3, W 4.6 cm; broken.

Description: The most complete fragment (WT 495) consists of the chest, left shoulder and arm, and a portion of the back of the pillar. Because the left hand is missing, it is not possible to classify this figure more precisely, although it is clear that she is not holding her breast. A second fragment (WT 292-3/792) represents the left arm, part of the chest and the upper back of a probable pillar figurine. The top of the shoulder is missing as is the left hand, however it is clear that the left arm bends at the elbow and wraps around the front of the figure. Although part of the chest is preserved, there is no evidence for the left breast; given the small size of this figurine, that is not surprising.

Technology: The pillars were probably formed as a cone, either on the wheel or by hand. The tapering end of the cone was then twisted from right to left to seal the end. This is evident in the interior of the upper body of WT 292-3/792, which is hollow at the waist and then is closed at the level of the upper arm. The arm was made separately and then attached; it rests against the body for its entire length. The surface is completely undecorated.

WT 186-3/686 (A2:36/50). Upper arm and back; light red fabric (2.5YR 6/6); H 3.4, W 3.5, T 1.6 cm; broken.

Description and Technology: Only the left arm and upper back are preserved in this small fragment. The shoulder is rounded and the arm hangs straight at the side, with a narrow space between the elbow and the torso. Due to the way it was broken, and the upper chest shattered, no discussion of the forming processes can be offered. However, this fragment is close in size to WT 292, clear evidence that it was not unique.

B-6. Pillar figurine bases

Numerous pillar and base fragments indicate that there were more pillar figurines than what is represented by the head and upper body parts. The best examples of these bases are illustrated online.

CATALOGUE

WT 175-2/675 (A2:14/16). Base D 6.0, H 6.8 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior and interior; broken.

WT 177-2/677 (A2:18/74). Base D 5.6, H 5.1 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 5/6) exterior and interior; broken.

WT 171-6/671 (Fig. 4.6:6). Base D 5.7, H 9.0 cm; light red (5YR 6/6) exterior, pink (5YR 7/4) interior; broken.

WT 358-2/558 (Fig. 4.6:7; A2:14/16). Base D 5.4, H 4.8 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) interior; broken.

Additional bases include: WT174; WT176; WT178; WT263.

B-7. Pillar figurine attachments

Ultra small bowls and/or lamps (D1.8–3.3 cm) probably belonged to pillar figurines, although no complete examples of figurines carrying such objects were recovered. One with red slip (WT 23) has a scar on the base where the slip ends. The second vessel (WT 429) was unslipped, while the third (WT387) was formed of levigated clay and has a cup depression on the top and another similar depression on the base, where it was supposedly supported.

CATALOGUE

WT 23-1 (Fig. 4.6:8; R13:0.5/15). D 3.3, H 2.2 cm: reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) slip; handle(?) scar; broken.

WT 429 (Fig. 4.6:9; A2:63/102). D 3.5, H 2.0 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3) surfaces.

WT 349 (Fig. 4.6:10; A2:0.5/101). D 3.5, H 1.9 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) surfaces.

WT 387-5 (Fig. 4.6:11; A10:0.5/101). D 1.8, H 2.1; pinkish gray fabric (7.5YR 7/2), pink (5YR 7/4) exterior; broken.

Summary and interpretation

In 1998, it was possible to collect a corpus of 68 anthropomorphic

figurines and statues from sites throughout Moab. This corpus contained approximately 38 distinct figures from Site WT-13 (Daviau 2001c). After four subsequent seasons of excavation, the corpus from WT-13 alone numbers 91 intact and fragmentary figurines.⁵⁰ Determining the identification and function of these female and male figurines remains the most challenging aspect of this study. With the exception of the naked female figurines and the stone statuettes, the lack of identifiable divine characteristics leaves us with the assumption that the majority of these figures represent humans, rather than a god or goddess, although the representation of deities may have been similar to that of humans (Connelly 1989:211).

There are three basic opinions regarding the nature of the figurines holding a disc: 1) the disc-bearing figurines are musicians holding a drum; 2) certain disc-bearing figurines hold a baetyl; and 3) naked disc-bearing figurines are representations of a goddess or minor deity.

Drum players

Among the female figurines that hold a disc, certainly the easiest to understand are those whose disc is held perpendicular to their body. That such figurines, especially common in Cyprus, Phoenicia and coastal Palestine (Meyers 1987:120–121), represent women musicians is generally accepted. Women musicians and their instruments are widely illustrated on Egyptian tomb paintings and stelae (Erman 1971:249), and in these examples the disc is held perpendicular to the body. The social position of women who performed music during various ceremonies, both public and religious, has been studied by Meyers (1991). Although major temples of the Iron Age apparently had “professional” musicians, what is not certain is whether there were musicians at a wayside shrine such as WT-13 or what function musician figurines would have played.

Among the figurines from central Jordan, the representation

of drum players is limited to Mudayna Thamad,⁵¹ Mount Nebo and WT-13; altogether five pillar figurines and five drum fragments, two with hands attached, constitute this corpus. In the case of WT 53, the best preserved example, the disc is held perpendicular to the body with the left hand supporting the drum, and the right hand, depicted as a palm without individual fingers, striking the outer surface.⁵² The closest parallels for this figurine are the two female pillar figurines from Mount Nebo (Saller 1966: fig. 28:1, 2) that each holds a disc perpendicular to the body. Although the iconography of the facial features is quite different, pillar figurines of female drummers have a wide distribution, and in most of these instances the hands are shown in the form of a mitten, with only the thumb separate from the rest of the hand. Comparable musician figurines are known from Ashdod (Dothan 1977:38), Shiqmona (Elgavish 1993:1374), Akhzib (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 7:1–3) and on Cyprus at Amathus (Karageorghis 1987:17; figs. 1–3; pl. ii:7, 8), Kamelarga (Larnaca; Karageorghis 2000:148; cat no. 232), Frangissa (Ohnefalsche-Richter 1893), and Lapithos (Yon 1991: pl. lxxi:c). Meyers (1991:18) makes the point that female figurines are usually depicted playing frame drums but Karageorghis (2000:148) indicates that bearded pillar figurine heads, comparable to a complete male drummer (C.P. 2744; Meyers 1991:17), are known on Cyprus.

Striking the drum with the right hand is also the common position depicted on the bronze bowls from Cyprus and Greece (Burgh 2006: [figs. 3.14, 3.15](#)), while the position is reversed on the Idalion bowl, where the musician strikes the drum with her left hand (Ohnefalsche-Richter 1893: fig. 49; Burgh 2006: fig. 3.13).

This same action may be represented by those figurines shown holding the bottom of the disc in their left hand with their right hand against the outer surface which is parallel to the body. But this interpretation, which is far from certain, applies to mould-

made figurines such as WT 42.⁵³ Karageorghis (1987:18; pls. iii–vii) is of the opinion that the 21 figurines from Amathus are “tambourine holders”. These are hand-made solid pillar figurines, each holding a disc flat against the body, either in front of the breasts, at the waist, or just below the waist. Karageorghis considers this type to be one of the most common in Cyprus, found in large numbers in both tombs and sanctuaries. Of special interest is a small figurine in the Cesnola collection of a female seated on a throne holding a disc against her chest (Karageorghis 2000: cat no. 237). A small number of figurines from Transjordan are shown with the left hand supporting a disc flat against the body and covering it with the right hand, usually against the left shoulder. The interpretation of this position remains uncertain and requires additional evidence before a judgment can be formed.

One pillar figurine, WT 72-2/572, is obviously not playing a drum as she holds a tiny disc in her hands between her breasts. This is a unique posture and does not contribute to our understanding of the larger discs held by other figurines. The closest parallels are three free-standing figurines, one from Dhiban, a second from al-Messhed near Mount Nebo and the third from Karak (Daviau 2001c:320; table 1: nos. 25, 26, 23). Although all broken at the waist, the shape of the body and the presence of grooves at the waist on two of these figurines suggests that they were naked.

In his description of finds from his survey area, Glueck (1970:185) identified the disc held by a small statue found near Busayra as a “sacred loaf of bread” held by a fertility goddess with a lamp on her head. Saller (1966:260–261) also identified the female pillar drummer figurines from Mount Nebo Tomb 84 as goddesses. On the other hand, Dayagi-Mendels (2002:145) suggested that such figurines represent human musicians who were part of rituals performed in sanctuaries. This is preferable to the opinion of Paz (2007:94) who assumes that the naked figurines from Israel and Transjordan that hold a disc against the left

shoulder are priestesses exclusively related to the fertility cult. Since drummers were part of many different rituals in the ancient world, a precise cultic setting cannot be assumed. This is seen most clearly in Egypt where they are seen on reliefs of banquet scenes and on funerary stelae, such as that of Bukanefptah who, with her husband, is playing a drum (Robins 1993:159; fig. 50).⁵⁴

The interpretation of the disc is not yet resolved although both Burgh (2006) and Sugimoto (2008:67) understand all discs, plain and decorated, to be musical instruments. For Sugimoto (2008:86), the disc-bearing females in Israel and Judah honour Astarte under her aspect of a war goddess, while in Phoenicia and Transjordan other aspects of the goddess were recognized. In Cisjordan, the drumming of women welcoming returning soldiers mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures serves as textual support for Sugimoto's opinion that these figurines were related to the cult of warlike Astarte. He does go on to list ten references to worship and banqueting where the drum is mentioned (Sugimoto 2008: table 7: Usages of *Top*).

Holding a baetyl

It is here that the opinion of O'Bryhim comes into focus. In re-evaluating the corpus of 220 figurines from Tombs 113–367 at Amathus, O'Bryhim (1997:40) first reviews the various opinions regarding the disc holding figures, noting especially the distinction made by Meyers between the drum held perpendicular and a small disc held up against the body. He goes on to make a further distinction between the disc-shaped drum and the spherical object that is apparently so heavy that it is held below waist level. On the basis of the Aegean tradition of female figurines holding a sphere, O'Bryhim identifies this object as a *baetyl* (O'Bryhim 1997:40–41). The figurines in the Amathus assemblage that hold a disc and those that hold a sphere (Karageorghis 1987: pls. iv:14–16) are all pillar figurines, usually with painted decoration that suggests a patterned garment. This interpretation is suggestive and makes a

needed distinction between drum-shaped discs and discs and/or spheres that may represent a different object.

Naked disc-bearing figurines representing a goddess or minor deity

Most problematic, and the most common stance for free-standing and attached female figurines at WT-13, is that of holding a disc flat against the body, either in front of the breasts or at waist level. Two sizes of disc are represented, a small disc not much larger than the hand itself and a large disc that nearly covers the entire upper torso. Two positions for the hands are represented, either holding the edge of the small disc with both hands, one on either side, or supporting the large disc with one hand and covering it with the other. The hands were formed simply with two sections suggesting the thumb and fingers as a group (WT 42) or as merely a palm without any detail. The fact that the figurines in this group appear to be naked is a feature that has important implications for their interpretation.

Meyers (1991:19) does not think that the disc held flat against the body by naked females represents a musical instrument. Although she herself was not certain about the identity of the disc, she did suggest several possible objects, a bread loaf, a sun disc or a plate, as Pritchard had suggested earlier (1943:55). The nudity of these figurines remains the principal feature for their identification as is seen in numerous studies on the difference between nakedness or lack of clothing and nudity which is a statement of otherness (Bloch-Smith 2014). If this is the case, we need to look again at the tradition of naked goddesses in the Levant, especially the Late Bronze Age tradition of the naked female with divine insignia that appears on pendants and plaques (Cornelius 2004: pls. 5.19–5.62).⁵⁵ By the Iron Age, several Semitic deities are adopted by the Egyptians and Astarte and Qudshu both appear naked on stelae, ostraca and seals (Cornelius 2004: pls. 4.1–5.18). It appears that nudity itself is an indicator of

divine status, although weapons or flowers held in the hands are also status related.

When we return to the naked disc-bearing figurines from Transjordan, it is notable that two mould-made female figures are attached on either side of the entrance of an architectural model, supposedly from Karak (J 5751; class B-1-a; Muller 2002: tableau 12). These figures appear naked, each holding a disc against the left shoulder.⁵⁶ Given the number of naked female figurines holding a disc found in recent excavations, it may be suggested that the disc has become an element of the divine iconography of the naked goddess in the late Iron Age, either Astarte or Qudshu. Both Sugimoto (2008:111) and Cornelius (2004:40) point out the importance of the Syro-Phoenician goddess Astarte in the Iron Age in Egypt and later in Transjordan. Her iconography usually depicts her as a naked female on horseback. Although this image does not appear at WT-13, it is the opinion of this author that a naked female more likely represents a deity than a human woman. This suggestion corresponds to the opinion of many scholars that naked females holding their breasts represent divine fertility. This depiction is seen on four figurines, including WT 88 on the façade of a model, and on one statue (WT 123; see below). Another female figurine head that may be related to a deity is WT 92-2/592, which resembles Sekhmet in profile. Offering a votive in the image of a human or of the deity him/herself has a long history in Mesopotamia and the Levant, for example, the hundreds of gold covered bronze male figurines from the deposits in the Obelisk temple at Byblos (Negbi 1976:25–28).

The interpretation of the male figurines and the seated figures remains tentative. Since each isolated head is unique, its full representation cannot be identified. Of note is the fact that all appear beardless, or nearly so, comparable to the figures drawn on Pithos B from Kuntillet Ajrud (Beck 2012 173–177; figs. 6.26, 26a) and the head of the archer in another scene (Beck 2012: figs. 6.26, 6.27). Only one head (WT 521-6/520) resembles to a certain

extent those seen on horse and rider figures, but even here his identity cannot be affirmed. Two of the seated figures appear unclothed but their sex is unclear (WT 439-6/501, WT 472-6/506). The tiny figure on a throne (WT 484-6/508) has no known parallels, although a clothed figure seated on a throne with its feet on a footstool is a known style for a divine or royal figure from the Late Bronze Age. The best Iron Age example is that of a figurine of a seated horned deity (Ba'al?) from Meniko (Moscati 1988: fig. 46).

C. Hollow statues

At least 21 ceramic statues are present in the corpus from WT-13, although most are poorly preserved and can only be partially restored. Such statues were hollow, free-standing figures, some of which also served as supports for a lamp or bowl. To date, no statues from the region of Moab have been found intact or been completely reconstructed, although WT-13 has yielded large body fragments of 15 recognizable statues, five distinct statue bases, four noses, one face and numerous fragments representing locks of hair. The size range of these statues is much greater than that for figurines, measuring between 10.0 cm (shoulder to base) – 46.0 cm (head to base), many in the same size range as the three statues from En Ḥaṣeva (36–47 cm; Ben-Arieh 2011:111, 114, 117). In one case (WT 47-2/547), the head alone measures close to 13.0 cm from the crown to the end of the hair locks, indicative of an even larger statue than those we were able to partially reconstruct.⁵⁷ The lower body is cylindrical with no visible limbs or details of elaborate clothing (Beck 1995: fig. 4.16).⁵⁸ The upper body tapers somewhat and may be cylindrical or elliptical in section.⁵⁹ The closest parallels to the body shape of the Moabite statues are those from En Ḥaṣeva (Cohen and Yisraeli 1995:226–227) and Ḥorvat Qitmit (Beck 1995:43–45; fig. 4.17), two sites in the Negev that have been identified with Edomite culture. In all examples from WT-13 where the arms are preserved, with one

exception (WT 166-2/666), they are flush against the body with the hands on the abdomen, or holding an offering at the waist, or holding the breasts. In at least five cases (WT 11-1/511, WT 69-2/569, WT 165-2/665, WT 167, WT 310-5/516), there are painted lines or broad bands, which may represent clothing. Some bands are clearly visible on the torso, while others are extremely faded.

Several statues are sufficiently well preserved to see that they represent females, one of which is holding her breasts (WT 123-2/623). Another statue (WT 165-2/165) has long drooping breasts, whereas all other statues have small breasts, which appears to be the most common style for both female and male statues. Due to the lack of complete statues, it is often difficult to determine sex, since both male and females are shown wearing long skirts. However, the presence of a headband holding the locks of hair in place and of a forelock in front of each ear may be features characteristic of male figures. This hair style is similar to that on the large limestone statue of Yarah-Azar found on the  Amman citadel,⁶⁰ and on a male figurine head recovered from the eastern dump at Mudayna Thamad by Glueck (1934: fig. 6). The shape of the skirt in only one statue (WT 11-1/511) reveals enough of the anatomy to be certain that it is a male, even though the hair and top of the head is missing. Although the face is preserved and the chin is slightly exaggerated, there is no clear evidence for a beard that could be used as another feature in determining the sex of the statues.⁶¹

Only a few partially restored heads have been identified that can be associated with these statues and provide details of hair style. Three heads (WT 47-2/547, 119-2/619, 166-2/666) show that the hair is held in place with a headband, and there is a hair lock in front of the ear. The headbands appear in two styles, either plain or decorated with clay pellets.⁶² The latter may reflect the Assyrian-style headband which consists of a flat band decorated with rosettes along its length; in Assyria, this headband was worn

by high-status persons, both men (Hawkins 1984: pl. 119)⁶³ and women (Mallowan 1966: fig. 159; ND2103 [B]).⁶⁴ The less ornate headband, also seen on the statue of Yarah-ʿAzar, appears on Assyrian soldiers depicted on a relief from the North West Palace at Nimrud (Layard 1849: II: extra plate 1).

Unfortunately, the heads are so incomplete that facial features cannot be subject to a full detailed analysis. Most distinctive is the nose; three noses are each different in shape, one is straight, one is rounded and a third is hooked. The eyes are round, several formed as part of the face and not as pellets. The one exception is a head made of clay with a high content of crushed sea shell (WT 148-2/648). In this example, the position of the eye is marked by a depression, and the eye itself is missing. Several chins have been preserved, and appear to be clean shaven; in contrast, the stone sculptures of divine heads from the ʿAmman area are all shown with a beard (Abou Assaf 1980; Zayadine 1986: pl. 133; see Beck, above). So too, the statue of the Ammonite king, Yarah-ʿAzar, son of Zakir, represents a male with a beard (Zayadine 1986: pl. 129). Another interesting example of a face with details of a beard was recovered in the northern Jordan Valley at Tall Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 1994: fig. 6:1).

Technology: These hollow figures were initially formed as an open bottomed vessel or stand to which human features and limbs were added. The base or resting surface, a term used by Caskey (1986:xxviii), was finished like the rim of a vessel that flares slightly outward and is thickened with a flattened lip.⁶⁵ The torso was clearly made on the wheel as rill marks are present up to the level of the shoulder where the statue closes in to form the neck. In certain statues the rills have been smoothed over with a tool. Evidence for wheel marks is seen more clearly in the neck area. In some instances, wheel marks are visible on the inside of the head, although these rills may also have been smoothed away. In a small number of statues, sherds of the crown are preserved and it appears from changes in colouration across the crown that certain

of these heads supported a lamp (for example, WT 69-2/569) or bowl.⁶⁶

Arms were attached in the same manner as a handle and then pressed flat against the side of the body. The arms were bent at the elbow and turned to the front to meet at the middle of the waist and hold an object in the hands, or support the breasts, or merely to rest on the abdomen. The hands were applied separately and a number of small hands have flaked off and cannot now be assigned to a specific statue (see below). In some cases, the breasts do not seem to be applied, but are an integral part of the body, being pushed out from the inside. The most outstanding feature is the hair, formed of large individual locks which were applied to the outer surface of the head.⁶⁷ These locks reach only to the base of the skull as longer hair locks would have been very susceptible to damage.

C-1. Small statues

Only one statue (WT 48-2/548), preserved from shoulder to base, falls into the category of small hollow statues. A second example (WT 319-5/507), which consists only of the upper torso, may in fact be a figurine, but it is mentioned here because the torso is thick-walled and hollow.

CATALOGUE

WT 48-2/548 (Fig. 4.7:1; A2:5/8). Shoulder to base; very pale brown surface (10YR 7/3); light gray core (10YR 7/2); H 9.7+, W 8.2, D 8.0 cm;⁶⁸ coil built; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: fig. 5, #41).

WT 319-5/507 (Fig. 4.6:5; A5:11/33). Upper torso; pale red fabric (10R 6/4), gray core (5YR 5/1); H 4.3, W 6.3, T 3.6 cm; broken.

Description and Technology: Artefact WT 48-2/548 is the smallest statue identified in the assemblage. It was formed of coils of clay which had been compressed on its inner surface with a rib or other tool, while the base was modelled by hand. The finger impressions

along the base seem to indicate that additional clay from the skirt was pressed over a pre-formed rim or flat edge. In fact, where the skirt is chipped the underlying rim is revealed. What remains of the upper body consists of the left arm, bent at the elbow and the left breast. The forearm extends horizontally below the breast and is large in comparison to the proportions of the upper arm. There is no indication of the hand, unless it was an integral part of the lower arm. The right shoulder is also preserved (WT 241), but does not mend; both arms were hand-made and attached to the body. By comparison with other statues, WT 48 appears to represent a female.

The identification of torso fragment WT 319-5/507 as a statue is tentative because the neck is solid, rather than hollow. However, the body, which is broken below the breasts revealing the interior of the torso, is hollow and appears to have been formed on the wheel as a cylinder. At the level of the shoulders, the cylinder was closed and excess clay was folded inside the upper body. The solid neck is preserved, and it is here that the evidence of tooling suggests that the head was attached on the outside, rather than by a peg that entered the shoulder area (a technique used in forming pillar figurines). The breasts were hand-made pellets attached to the chest.

Interpretation and parallels

These small hand-made statues are each in a class of their own and cannot be compared iconographically with the larger statues, due in part to the fact that the heads and hands are missing. Parallels from other sites are non-existent. Small Statue WT 319-5/507 has affinities with figurine WT 280-4/507 in the formation of the breasts, however, we cannot assume from the poorly preserved upper torso that other features were similar. Indeed, Figurine WT 280-4/507 is identified as such because it appears to be solid.

C-2. Medium-size statues

Four statue bodies in the medium size range are partially preserved, although additional bases suggest that originally there were several more in this class (see below).

C-2/a. Female statue holding her breasts

CATALOGUE

WT 123-2/523 (Fig. 4.7:2; A2:18/27).⁶⁹ Upper torso; very pale brown (10YR 7/4), pink core (7.5YR 8/4); H 8.5, W 9.0, D 5.5 cm; broken, three pieces (Daviau 2001c: fig. 6, #40).

Description: Several sherds comprise the front and back of the upper torso of this female figure, the only statue of a female holding her breasts. The back of the neck is preserved, but the front is broken. What remains suggests a naked female, although most of the statues have long skirts, some with painted decoration. The arms are tight against the body and hold widely separated breasts. The figure is oval in shape and broken at the waist.

Technology: The clay used to form this statue has a greenish tinge in places and contains innumerable small black inclusions, making the surface feel rough. This fabric was not used in the formation of other statues.

Interpretation and parallels: In this corpus, only two female figurines and one statue are shown holding or squeezing their breasts. To date, there are no true parallels for this statue, although this iconographic feature is common among naked female figurines (see above). One limestone statue of a female wearing a pleated garment and holding her breasts (Aarons 1982:32) has been attributed to Transjordan, but this figure is in a different class. So too, a hollow figurine from Ashdod is described as the “stem” of a more complex vessel, such as an “incense burner” (Dothan and Porath 1982:37; fig. 25:3). Unlike the statues from WT-13 that support a lamp on their heads (see WT

119-2/619 below), this figure is open at the top and the vessel that rested on the head is missing.

C-2/b. Statues with hands on the abdomen

Although the position of the hands varies somewhat from one statue to another, the statues in this category include those figures with their hands lying flat on their abdomen. It appears that the figures in this sub-type were not holding anything in their hands, however the hands are missing on some statues, making exact classification difficult.

CATALOGUE

WT 20-1/520 (Fig. 4.7:3; 13:0.5/15).⁷⁰ Front torso; very pale brown (10YR 7/3); gray core (10YR 5/1); H 8.5+, W 7.6+ cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #39).

Description: This fragment preserves the front torso from shoulder to abdomen; both breasts are intact, the right arm is complete, and both hands rest on the abdomen. The length of the arm from shoulder to elbow is ca. 4.4 cm and represents a medium size statue, when compared to a small statue (WT 48-2/528) which has an arm length of 3.0 cm to the elbow. The elbow curves gently without creating a sharp angle. The hands continue the line of the arms and rest a short distance apart. Two small breasts are visible on the upper torso in line with the shoulders.

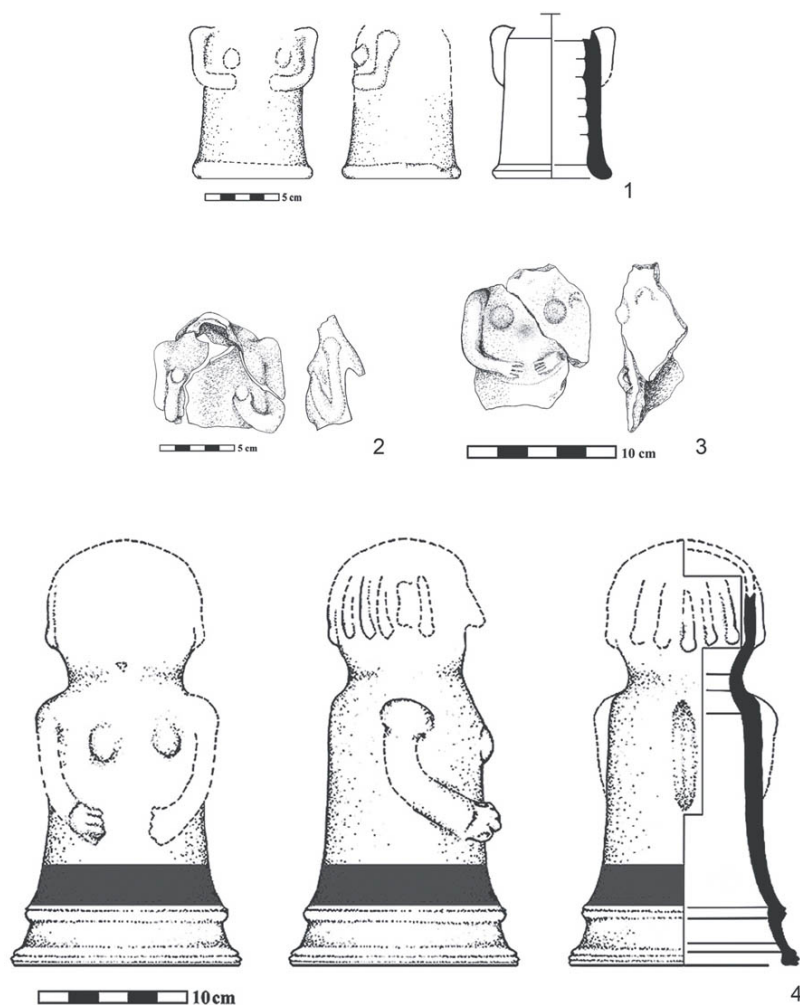


Figure 4.7. Small statues: 1) WT 48-2/548; medium size statues, 2) WT 123-2/523; 3) WT 20-1/520; 4) WT 37-2/537

Technology: This statue was wheel made, a technique which is evident from rill marks on the inside. The arms were made from small coils of clay. The details of the hands were formed by incising the end of the clay coil to indicate the individual fingers. In comparison with other statues, such high definition of the fingers is rare. From close observation of the interior of the torso, it appears that the breasts were formed by pressing the clay

toward the exterior from the inside. In view of the small size of the breasts formed in this manner, it is not clear whether this statue represents a male or a female; without the head, it is difficult to be certain. The fabric of the statue includes a heavy concentration of minute sub-round lithic inclusions, having the appearance of ground pepper.

Interpretation and parallels: The position of the hands is comparable to the hand on the fragment of a male figurine torso (WT 323-5/508) described above. In both cases, the significance of the stance remains undetermined, although this parallel may suggest that statue WT 20-1/520 represents a male figure.

WT 37-2/537 (Fig. 4.7:4; A2:2/3).⁷¹ Neck to base; pale yellow fabric (2.5Y 8/3); reddish brown base paint (2.5YR 4/4), pale yellow core (2.5Y 8/3); H 26.0+, W 10.9, D 13.0 cm; partially restored.

Description: Several fragments mend to form a statue that is partially reconstructed from neck to base; both breasts are present and the right arm is preserved at the shoulder, while the forearm is preserved from the elbow to the hand; the elbow itself is missing. The position of the right arm shows that the hands rested on the abdomen. The right wrist has a deep perpendicular incision, which may represent a bracelet or simply be a mark to emphasize the wrist. The fingers are indicated by deep incisions and are rounded into a fist. Several sherds with vertical locks of hair appear to come from the back and the sides of the head. Unfortunately, the face is not preserved.

Technology: The base and body of this statue appear to have been wheel-made, however, interior rill marks have been smoothed over. The arms were added after the body was formed using coils of clay, which were attached at the shoulder in the manner of a handle.

Technology: The arm was a hand-made element that was attached

to the body after its formation. The back of the shoulder gives good evidence of this since it can be seen where the arm was attached and additional clay was added to support it.

The right hand may have been made separately, since it has a larger circumference than the arm. So too, the locks of hair were formed separately of small clay coils, flattened on one side and pressed against the head. The breasts were formed as large clay pellets and modelled after attachment to the chest. The presence of breasts is not an automatic indicator of female sexual attributes, since several male statues also have small breasts. The large fist is a better indicator that this statue was intended to represent a male figure.

The statue is of a homogeneous yellow fabric which was well mixed with few inclusions. The inclusions that are most apparent are primarily calcite/limestone. The interior surface of the statue is smooth, whereas the outer surface is rough, probably due to deterioration of the surface itself.

Interpretation and parallels: The shape of the lower skirt and base is unique, although that is the case with almost all of the statues in the corpus. The fact that the lower skirt flares out at the base is evidence for a forming tradition quite different from that used in the production of the statues from both Ḥorvat Qitmit and En Ḥaṣeva, where the base was formed like the rim and neck of a jar (Beck 1995: [figs. 3.21, 22](#)); Cohen and Yisraeli (1995:226–227, cover). At the same time, the ridge that divides the lower skirt into two tiers does have some affinities with the sharp change of direction that marks the lower edge of the body on the En Ḥaṣeva statues. Since the ridge is considerably lower down on the skirt of the WT-13 figures, a different interpretation has been suggested for this feature.

C-2/c. Medium size statues carrying a lamp on the head

Only one statue head supporting a lamp could be partially restored

among the medium size statues. At the same time, there are also several miniature lamps within the corpus that retain evidence which shows clearly that they had been attached to the head of a statue (see [Fig. 4.14:1–4](#)).

CATALOGUE

WT 119-2/619 (Fig. 4.8:1; A2:11/25).⁷² Head; very pale brown (10YR 7/3); H 7.5, W 10.6, D 9.0 cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #43).

Description: This partially restored head has an elaborate hairstyle, wears a decorated headband, and supports a lamp on top of the head. The right ear of the statue is fully preserved; its raised and rounded outline is perfectly formed, while the inner part of the ear is represented by a shallow depression. The left ear is also preserved, but is somewhat smaller than the right one.⁷³

A headband is represented by a coil of clay attached to the upper portion of the head. Along the front and sides of the headband small pellets of clay were added for decoration. At the back, the ends of the headband cross over each other at the point where a thick lump of clay represents the knot in the band. The ends hang down diagonally across the locks of hair. The hair itself is represented by thick strands or locks running vertically from the crown of the head. The individual strands are relatively thick (*ca.* 1.0 cm) when compared with the size of the head. The rounded end of the hair lock, located in front of the right ear, is more pronounced than the lower ends of the remaining strands of hair on the sides and back of the head.

On the front half of the crown, there is a one-spouted lamp with the spout pointing toward the front of the statue. The very top of the head is open and the base of the lamp is suspended above the opening. A nose (WT 164-2/624), possibly belonging to this statue, is also preserved; it is a simple form with a gentle curve that measures 4.6 long, 2.6 wide and 3.5 cm thick; the nostrils are not delineated.

Technology: The head of this statue was wheel made and the elements of the hair and the headband were formed by the addition of hand-made clay rolls. The depiction of the hair was created by vertical rolls attached to the head from the crown to the base of the skull. Each lock is formed separately and placed at a short distance from the strand on either side. The ear may have been formed in relief, without additional clay. The fabric is brown throughout with many minute lithic inclusions.

Interpretation and parallels: The presence of a lamp on the head of a pillar style figurine or of a ceramic statue lends support to the suggestion by many scholars that such figures were intended to serve as votive offerings in a temple or shrine. For example, Harding describes a group of small (ca. 15.0–18.0 cm) “figurines” which were recovered by local people in the area of a spring, ʿAin Jenin near Busayra. One of these figurines (Harding 1937: pl. ix:1–2) consists of a hollow “pillar figurine” which carries a lamp on its head with the spout facing front. Immediately below the lamp, there is a row of small depressions or “punched holes” (Harding 1937:253) across the forehead. Crude, vertical strips of clay indicate the locks of hair around the sides and back of the head. The hair of a second head (Harding 1937: pl. x:6–7) has narrow strips of clay hanging close together from the lower edge of a lamp to represent the hair. Another example of a human head supporting a lamp was recovered during the excavations of Elihu Grant at Beth Shemesh (Grant 1932: pl. lxxv:20).⁷⁴ Such “standing” lamps could be set up in a shrine and remain burning after the devotee had left the shrine. In this way, the votive serves as a sacrifice, “abandoned” by a worshiper as a symbol of his/her prayerful intention (Frevel 2008:30).

Although Harding classified the finds from the Busayra area as figurines, their size and hollow construction suggest that they are good parallels for the medium-size hollow statues from WT-13. There can be no comparison of their facial features, since only the back and crowns of the heads of the small WT-13 statues are

preserved. However, the individual locks of hair attached to the head at intervals shares some similarity to the statues from WT-13.⁷⁵ One aspect that appears consistent among the WT-13 statues is that each lock ends in a small rounded knob, whereas the statues from the Busayra area appear to end in an unobtrusive manner and may even continue into the neck area (Harding 1937: fig. 2). So too, the statues from  En Ḥaṣeva also have individual locks of hair formed of small coils of clay. However, these coils extend from the crown of the head to the shoulder and are attached both to the side of the head and to the shoulder area to provide greater strength to the coil.

In some instances, the top of the head is open, comparable to the most complete male figures (Nos. 23, 24) from Ḥorvat Qiṭmit (Beck 1995: figs. 3.19–3.22). However, the formation of the ears varies, with some formed as an integral part of the head. This is different in conception than those ear fragments found at Ḥorvat Qiṭmit, where each ear was made separately and then applied to the head (Beck 1995: fig. 3.65:102–106).⁷⁶

C-2/d. Medium size statues carrying offerings

The most complete example of a statue bearing an offering is represented by a male figure (WT 166) with an elaborate hairdo.

CATALOGUE

WT 166-2/666 (Fig. 4.8:2; A2:24/3).⁷⁷ Head to base; exterior surface, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); slip, white (10YR 8/2); very pale brown core (10YR 7/3); H 28.5+, W 12.7+, D 11.6 cm; partially reconstructed (Daviau 2001c: fig. 5, #47).

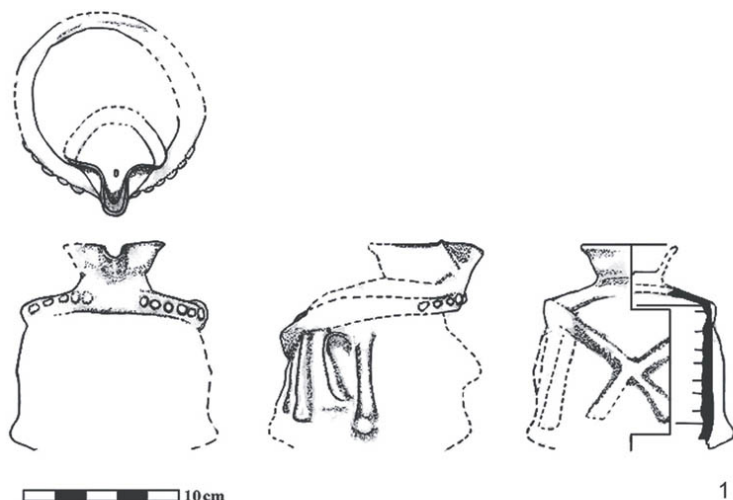
Description: This figure consists of a partially restored statue of a male. Parts of the head, the torso and the base are preserved. The figure is depicted with both arms holding a stack of bread loaves(?) (Daviau 2001c:322).⁷⁸ The left hand holds the bread from underneath, but the arm itself is missing. The right arm of the statue is unusual in this assemblage, because it is fully formed

in the round; it does not lie flat against the body, instead the shoulder protrudes from the body ca. 3.0 cm, creating a space between the arm and the body which extends from the underarm to the elbow. The upper torso of the statue has two small breasts which are placed close together, and may be intended to represent a male chest rather than a female one.

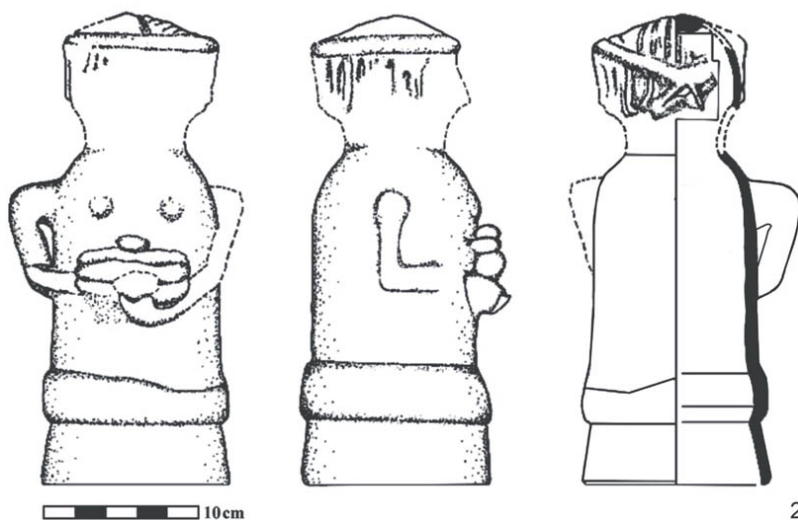
The head is partially preserved and shows in detail the hairstyle of the individual. The approximate diameter of the head is 10.0 cm that seems to be rather large in relation to the diameter of the torso (12.7 cm), although lack of proportion is not unusual. The hair is parted in the centre of the head from front to back by a groove with diagonal grooves extending from the part to the sides of the head. Around the head there is a headband which crosses in a large knob at the back to illustrate that it was tied in a knot. The strands of hair extend from the lower edge of the headband to the neck, but in this case they are not formed of large individual locks. Rather, a group of closely set strands, relatively but not exactly parallel, are side by side around the head, except where they are crossed on the diagonal by the ends of the headband.

Technology: The body of this statue was wheel made, a fact which is evident from the faint rill marks on the inside. The arms were fully formed from coils of clay which were then attached to the body and reinforced by additional pieces of clay. The hand-made loaves were each formed separately, and then placed together. The upper loaf, topped by a small round object, is made to represent two loaves; this piece was then placed above the lower loaf and they were pressed together. The two pieces separated easily when the statue broke, revealing the construction techniques. The left arm was also formed separately and then attached to the body and the loaves. On the underside of the lower loaf, additional clay was added to help secure the hand and lower arm to the body of the statue. The skirt and base are represented in two tiers, with the upper tier beginning ca. 3.8 cm above the base itself. The base has a rounded lip which is only slightly flattened on the interior, in

contrast to the thickened bases seen on several large statues.



1



2

Figure 4.8. Medium statue with head lamp, 1) WT 119-2/619; medium statue carrying an offering, 2) WT 166-2/666

Interpretation and parallels: The headband, a common style for a male head in this repertoire, is undecorated and merges with the forehead. The closest parallels to the particular formation of hair

strands can be seen on several fragments (WT 103, WT 253) and on the third figurine head reported by Harding (1937: figs. 5–6), which also has locks and incised strands lying close together around the back of the head. Another figure, apparently attached to a cultic stand or architectural model from Area G in Jerusalem, has a plain headband and hair locks radiating diagonally from a central part to the right and left sides of his head (Shiloh 1984: fig. 23 = pl. 29:2).⁷⁹ The careful formation of individual locks of hair is also seen on two male figurine heads from Tel Moza (Kisilevitz 1958; fig. 5).

As is the case with all the male statues at WT-13, two statues from Ain Jenin near Busayra have small breasts. Although this is not the case for the statues from En Ḥaṣeva, it may be premature to conclude, as Sedman (2002:376) implies in her discussion of the statues from Ain Jenin, that statues with small breasts are prophet figures with hermaphrodite characteristics.⁸⁰

Although there is no exact parallel to the superimposed bread loaves as an offering held in the hands of a statue, Harding's first figurine (1937: fig. 1) appears holding the edges of a disc in both hands. Indeed, Harding (1937:254) notes that there is evidence on the body that the arms of the second figure were also attached to the front of the statue and held an object.

C-2/e-1. Medium-size statue heads

Two heads fall into the size range of medium size statue heads. In both cases, it is the left side that is preserved. One head is unique while the other shares some features with other medium- and large size statue heads. However, both heads are interesting.

CATALOGUE

WT 478-6 (Fig. 4.9:1; A2:63/102). Head and neck; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) ext; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) int, red paint (7.5R 5/6); max D ca. 5.7 cm; broken.

Description: Head WT 478 was wheel made in the form of a juglet with a button base closed from the exterior. The “base” forms the

top of the head and the change of direction marks the position of the headband. One hair lock is preserved from the top of the band to the nape of the neck. The forelock in front of the left ear also extends from the band but the end is broken. Remnants of red paint are still visible on the ear and the forelock.

CATALOGUE

WT 148-2/648 (Fig. 4.9:2; A2:7/28). Head; light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4), gray core (2.5Y 5/0); H 13.2 +, W 8.3, D 4.0 cm; fragmentary.

Description: This partially reconstructed head of a statue does not make it possible to discern from what is preserved whether it represents a male or female, because there is no evidence for hair. The two ears have been preserved, attached to the head itself. They are of different shapes, although this may have been due in part to wear. The left ear of the statue is the most detailed. It is rounded at the top with grooves to show the indentation of the inside of the ear. The ear lobe is emphasized and elongated; this may be a representation of a dangling earring. The right ear is less well defined, it is rounded at the top as is the left ear but the earlobe is not as elongated. The neck of this statue is interesting because it ended in a scalloped edge which was inserted into the upper body of the statue. Clay from the shoulder area sealed against the neck on the outside. There is evidence for the position of the left eye by a slight depression in the clay. It is possible that additional clay or a pellet was originally placed here to depict the eye.

Technology: This statue head was wheel made and the ears were attached by hand afterwards. The ears were presumably formed by the addition of clay to the head and then shaped when the clay was attached. The technology of the neck is interesting because it can be seen precisely where the clay was added to create decoration. The position of the left eye was created by depressing the front of the face to form a recess for an inlaid eye.

The fabric of this statue is unique to the corpus of ceramic figurines and statues. It is full of inclusions; lithic, pottery and shell. The interesting inclusion is the shell, a material which rarely shows up in the matrix of Iron Age ceramic vessels in central Jordan, although a source for this material might be the Wādi Mujib.

Interpretation and parallels:

The unusual technique employed in forming head WT 478 suggests a different potter than the one who produced statues that were open at the top. At the same time, the individual locks of hair attached to the head are similar to other heads in the assemblage. The bald head of WT 148-2/648 and the earring in the lobe of the left ear is also unusual as well as the small petals that hang from the inner edge of neck. Their position suggests that this head was part of a composite figure or object.

C-2/e-2. Head fragments with lamp

No large statues with a lamp on the head were restorable, although several sherds of broken lamps are present with evidence of being attached to a head. As seen in one partially restored head (WT 119, above), the size of the lamp is not necessarily an indicator of the size of the head. Six lamp and lamp+head fragments may belong to medium size statues (see below, [Fig. 4.14](#)).

CATALOGUE

WT 487 (Fig. 4.9:3; A7:1/1). Lamp+head; yellow fabric and exterior (10YR 7/6); D 6.7, H 5.6; fragment.

Two miniature lamp sherds with obvious scars on the base suggesting attachment to a small statue are also present in the assemblage (A2/10.12; A2/10.16), as well as one lamp sherd with an attached stem (WT 349), possibly carried in the hand of a small figure.

C-2/f. Medium size statue torsos

Body sherds which constitute the lower portion of a statue to which no head or upper body can be assigned were easily recognizable. The three best preserved bodies are WT 220, WT 275 and WT 376.

C-3. Large statues

Each of these statues is unique, both in style and in ceramic fabric. Due to their fragmentary condition, the most apparent distinction that can be made is between those that appear to have their hands on their waist or abdomen and those holding offerings in their hands.

C-3/a-1. Statues with hands at the waist

Statue WT 11-1/511 is the most complete figure in this corpus, although most of the head is missing.

CATALOGUE

WT 11-1/511 (Fig. 4.9:4; A2:2/4).⁸¹ Neck to base with part of the face; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6), reddish yellow core (7.5YR 7/6), base-paint, red (2.5YR 4/6); H 29.0+, W 13.3, D 14.0 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: fig. 5, #38).

Description: A partially reconstructed male statue is one of the three largest statues within the corpus. It is preserved from shoulder to base; the face is separate. The arms are placed flat against the body and the hands appear to meet at the waist, suggesting that this statue held an offering or a symbol. The right elbow bends at a sharp angle and there is a small knob at the point where the upper and lower arms meet. The hands are not defined to show details of the fingers. The form of the arm is slightly different from others in the corpus because it has a angular shape. The edges which form the arm at the shoulder line are sharp. The back of the shoulder is also somewhat unusual in that there is a

depression made by fingers to give the appearance of a shoulder blade. Faint traces of vertical and horizontal painted bands can be seen on the back. On the front, two small breasts are preserved and a protrusion below the waist indicates clearly the sex of this figure.

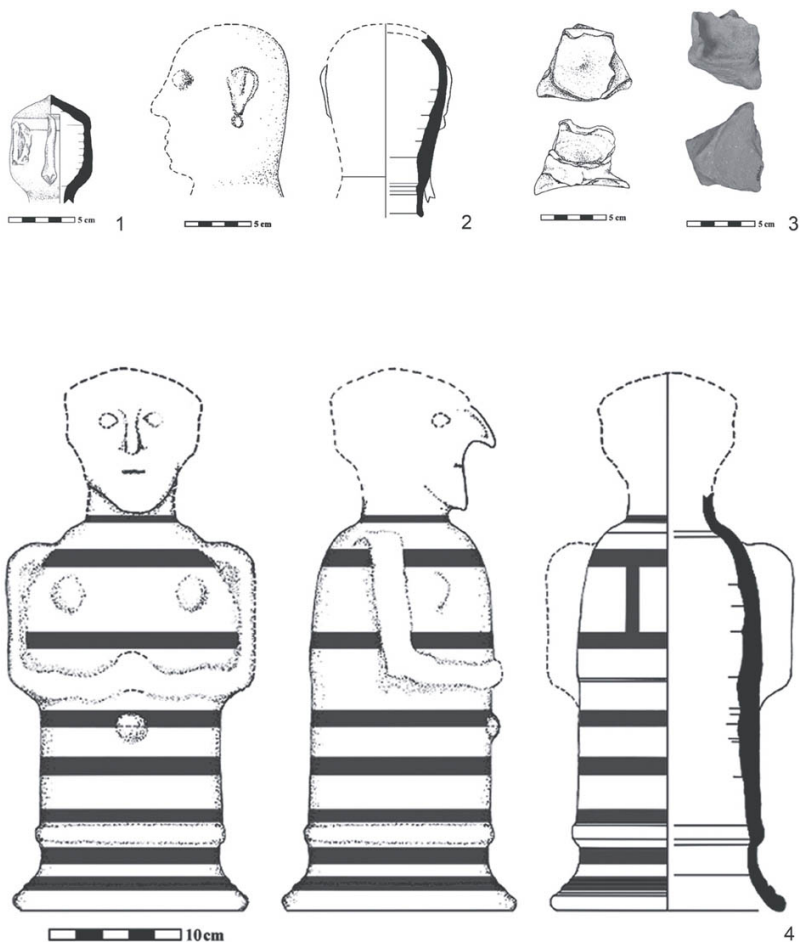


Figure 4.9. Medium statue heads: 1) WT 478-6; 2) WT 148-2/648; lamps attached to medium statue heads, 3) WT 487-6; large male statue with hands at waist, 4) WT 11-1/511

The lower part of the statue above the base represents a skirt. The hem is shown by a raised band *ca.* 1.0 cm thick running

around the circumference of the statue. Additionally, there are lines of red paint running around the statue in the area of the raised hem of the skirt. The base of the statue itself flares out and also has residual bands of red paint.

A head (WT 93+277) which almost certainly belongs to this statue is of the same fabric and is proportionately suitable to its size. The head does not mend with the neck, but due to the similarities in fabric and thickness, it will be included in the following discussion. The head measures 9.5 cm in height and ca. 6.0 cm in diameter. The nose with a ridge along the top is fully preserved and the nostrils are formed by the impression of a finger with no separation between the two. This is in contrast to another nose, WT 58, where both of the nostrils were defined by a ridge between them. The left eye is fully preserved as well and is depicted as a simple raised and rounded piece of clay. The right side of the face is broken off right where the other eye would have been. The mouth is formed as a simple straight line extending 1.9 cm long and was incised. There is a gentle curve to it which gives the appearance of a gentle smile. The chin of WT 11-1/511 is emphasized, has a square shape and is raised from the neck approximately 1.3 cm high. There is evidence of red paint around the chin and on the right side of the nose.

Technology: The body of this statue was wheel made as is evident in the rill marks running around the inside. The features were all handmade and attached after the body was formed. The arms were attached to the body and reinforced with extra clay. This can be seen clearly along the outside of the right arm. The nose was handmade and attached to the face separately. The ridge was created by pinching the outside of the nose with fingers. The nostrils were also formed by pinching the underside of the nose. The eye was made by the addition of clay and then reshaped. A sharp tool was likely used to create the deep incision which formed the mouth of the statue. The incised mouth is similar to that of the mouth on the lower face fragment from Tall Jawa (TJ

2240) but stands in contrast to the forming processes used to make the mouths on the  En Ḥaṣeva statues. In these instances, the potter added a small roll of clay which was then divided in two parts to represent the mouth (Ben-Arieh 2011:111).

Parallels and interpretation

Tall a-Sa  idiyya: A small ceramic statue of a male carrying a sack over his shoulder from an 8th-century context at Tall a-Sa  idiyya (Pritchard 1968) shares several forming features with our larger statues. The body is hollow with a hand-made head with attached facial features. The man is shown wearing a long garment painted with vertical and horizontal lines. In this case, the decoration is an Ammonite style with three broad bands of white wash around the skirt and red and black lines forming the pattern. Although found in the debris of a collapsed house, Pritchard interpreted this statue as a votive representing a traveller or pilgrim.

Tall Damiyah: One of the two statues from the late 8th–7th century settlement is the closest parallel to WT 11-1/511. In this case also, the head is missing, the arms are bent and the hands rest on the abdomen, there is a protrusion indicating the male sex, and there is a raised band representing the hem of a garment (Petit *et al.* 2006:187; fig. 4).

C-3/a-2. Statues with hands on the abdomen

In this group, there are several partially preserved statues, consisting either of the torso with the position of the hands indicated or the torso without full length arms. The first of these statues is clearly a female with long breasts.

CATALOGUE

WT 165-2/665 (Fig. 4.10:1; A2:14/2).⁸² Upper torso; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/4), pink exterior surface (7.5YR 7/4), red paint (2.5YR 5/6); head, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6); H 23.8+, W 16.2+, D 18.0 cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c:

#46).

Description: This figure appears to be the largest female statue in the assemblage, although it is only partially preserved.⁸³ Sherds which represent part of the torso with two pendant breasts, one arm, the neck and part of the head can be assigned to this statue. The statue's right arm is present with only a small section of the hand missing. The arm itself is in position flat against the body and extends from the shoulder to the hand, which rests on the abdomen. There is no evidence for the shape of the hand, although it appears to be curving upwards as if it originally held an offering. Evidence for clothing is present in the faint bands of red paint which can be seen on the sherds that make up the torso.

The hairdo is represented by straight parallel rounded locks of hair, each *ca.* 10 cm in length, beginning at the crown of the head. In one case, the distance between two locks of hair is 5.9 cm. The locks protrude *ca.* 1.7 cm from the side of the head, while the lower end of each lock is in the form of a small rounded knob.

Technology: The body of this statue was made on the wheel, while the attached features were handmade, comparable to the techniques employed to construct the other statues. The arm was formed from a piece of rolled clay and attached to the body where it was reinforced with an additional clay strip. The breasts and locks of hair seem to have been made in the same way. This statue clearly represents a female, since the breasts are elongated and measure 5.4 cm in length, whereas male breasts are round or oval, but not pendant.

Interpretation and parallels: Although few parallels to these specific types are known, the presence of a ceramic vessel in the form of a female in an Iron Age house at Qatna adds to our knowledge of the geographical extent of this figurative style. In this case, the female has a cylindrical lower body and only the arms, shoulders and upper body are depicted. Of special interest is the fact that the left arm is bent and supports several small lumps of clay; in

addition, the upper body is painted with red bands which encircle the body (Barro *et al.* 2003:13; fig. 8).

WT 69-2/569 (Fig. 4.10:2; A4:0.5/1);⁸⁴ Head, torso and base sherds; reddish yellow exterior (5YR 7/6), very pale brown interior (10YR 7/4), red paint (10R 4/6), very dark gray paint (5YR 3/1); H 35.0+, W 14.5, D 14.0 cm; broken.

Description: WT 69/2/569 is a partially restored thick-walled (1.0 cm) statue, reconstructed from the shoulder to the base. The shoulder of the right arm is partially preserved along with the left breast. The lower part of this statue is different from others in the corpus in that the hem of the skirt is not well defined. The skirt bends in *ca.* 1.5 cm above the flat, externally thickened base; above the bend, there are traces of a red (10R 4/6) painted band with a black band (5YR 3/1) running horizontally below it.

The body of the statue is cylindrical and maintains a relatively consistent diameter as far as the neck. At the shoulder, the neck bends in and then begins to flare out gently to form the head. On the body itself are large scars at the point where the arm, and possibly an object, would have been attached. The single preserved breast of this statue is oval shaped and measures 3.0 cm long, 2.0 cm wide and protrudes from the body *ca.* 0.8 cm.

Sherds forming the crown of the head are also preserved, along with several hair locks, however these fragments do not mend with the body. The sherds forming the crown are scarred where another object, possibly a lamp, was attached. The hair locks were folded to form long rectangular pieces of clay that were attached to the head. Both ears are preserved, although only one ear, measuring 6.5 cm long by 2.3 cm wide, is attached to a fragment of the head from which it protrudes 0.9 cm. The ears are interesting because there are several holes that have been pierced through the clay, probably to hold earrings. On each ear, there are three holes, two at the top and one at the bottom. The inside of the ear has a depression depicting the inner ear. In front of this ear, there is a single lock of hair.

Technology: Clear rill marks running horizontally on the inside are evidence that this statue was wheel made. The breast was attached after the body was formed by simply adding a small piece of clay and rounding it. The arm was handmade from a rolled piece of clay and pressed against the body. This forming technique is evident at the point where the shoulder is broken and a scar marking the place where the rest of the arm had been attached to the torso is still visible.

C-3/b. Large statues holding offerings

Although only a small portion of the offering is supported by the right hand, the sherds that represent this statue are sufficient to identify this type.

CATALOGUE

WT 167-2/667 (Fig. 4.11:1; R13:18/10)⁸⁵; body and base; white slip (2.5Y 8/1), red paint (2.5YR 5/6), very pale brown core (10YR 7/3); H 15.5+, W 9.4+, D 10.0 cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #48).

Description: Lower body and back of the shoulder. Almost the complete base is present, comprised of several mendable sherds. The base is two tiered and represents the skirt of the statue. Above the base (8.8 cm) there is an attachment of a long rounded piece of clay running horizontally along the circumference of the statue. It appears to be the two forearms holding an offering in both hands. Two sherds from the back of the head are characterized by 5 locks of hair that end at the neck.

Technology: Rills are visible on the interior surface, evidence that this statue was wheel made. The decoration was added afterwards by rounded pieces of clay attached to the pre-formed body. The fabric contains minute pieces of calcite/limestone. The outside of the statue has a white slip on the surface and a horizontal band of red paint.

WT 189-2/689 (Fig. 4.11:2; A2:7/17). Shoulder, torso and hair lock; D 14.5, H *ca.* 31.0+ cm; light gray fabric (10YR 7/2), white exterior (2.5Y 8/2); broken.

Description: It seems likely that this statue represents a female. The breast is fully preserved and extends to a length of 4.5 cm with a width of 2.4 cm. Located in the centre of the chest are remnants of clay where it appears that something was attached, such as a small bowl (WT 23 or WT 67). Underneath the breast there are scars which show where the arms had been attached to the torso. The neck of the statue begins 2.3 cm above the breast and gently curves up towards the face. A fragment of an arm and shoulder curving towards the front represents the right arm of this statue. An interesting feature is that the underarm was not flush to the body; instead the shoulder protrudes from the body 2.9 cm. The arm in total reaches a length of 9.4 cm and, at *ca.* 5.0 cm, there are scar marks showing where the missing forearm was attached to the body. The end of the arm is broken and at this point the clay thickens on the outside where a bracelet or just the hand would have been formed.

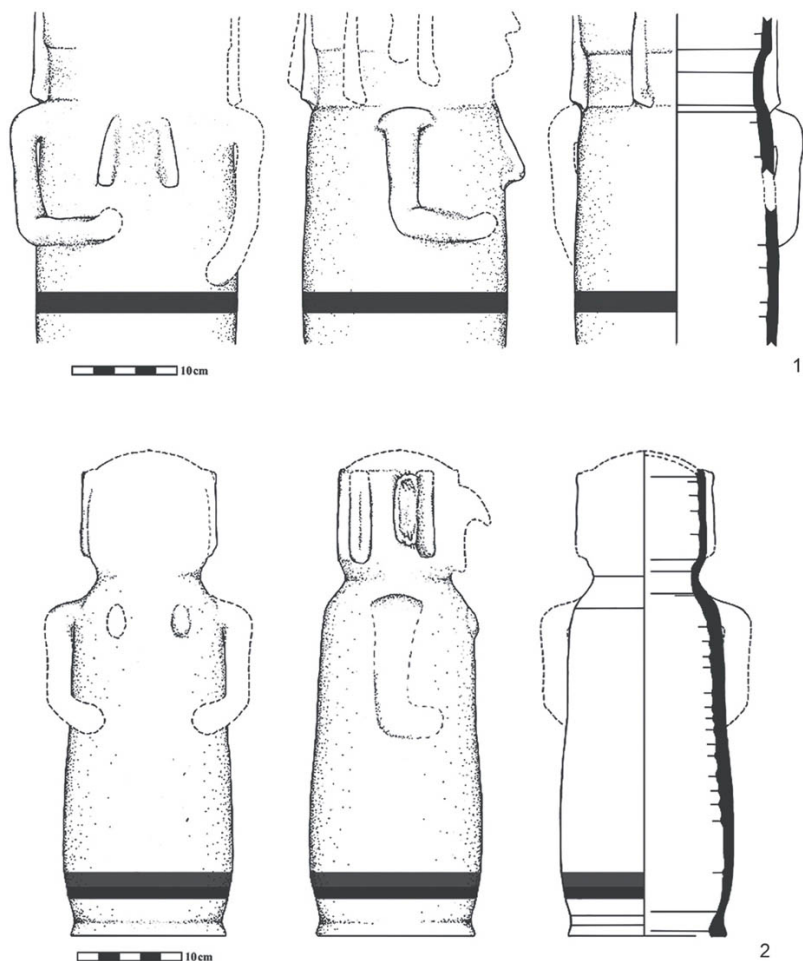


Figure 4.10. Large statues: 1) WT 165-2/665; 2) WT 69-2/569

Technology: This statue was wheel made with hand-made features which were attached and moulded after the body had been formed. Additional evidence of this technique is preserved in the scarring seen below and to the left of the breast where an original feature has broken off. The arm would have been handmade from a rolled piece of clay that was attached at the shoulder in the same manner as a handle on a jug. The fabric contains a high portion of coarse white mineral inclusions.

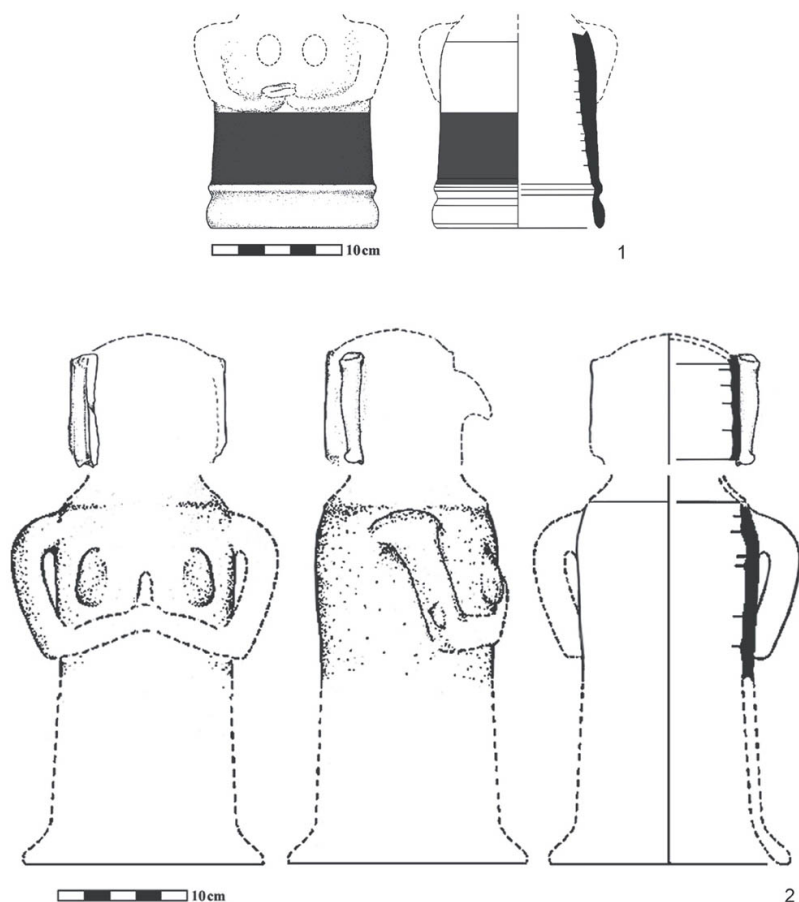


Figure 4.11. Statues holding offerings: 1) WT 167-2/667; 2) WT 189-2/689

D. Statues of no known type

Incomplete statues are recognized as individuals on the basis of their forming techniques and material. In certain instance, torso, base and head fragments in the same fabric are assumed to come from a single individual. Due to the large number of missing fragments, especially those which indicate the position of the hands, these statues cannot be assigned to a known type. This group includes head and base fragments.

D-1. Incomplete Statues

D-1/a. Statue head and base fragments

CATALOGUE

WT 310-5/516 (Fig. 4.12:1; A4:0.5/17). Head and hair lock plus base sherds; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), reddish yellow slip (5YR 6/8); H 7.3, W 5.0, D 9.0 cm; fragmentary.

Description: Only a fragment from the head of this statue and several sherds that form the base are preserved.⁸⁶ The right ear is present and is irregular in shape, raised from the head 0.8 cm and measuring 3.5 cm long and 2.2 cm wide at its maximum width. A single lock of hair is preserved at a distance of 1.1 cm from the ear. It is raised from the head *ca.* 0.5 cm and there is a reddish yellow slip left preserved on this lock; beginning at the end of the earlobe, the neck of the statue begins to curve in, and the lock of hair continues downward.

Most of the body is missing except for the base and a few sherds of the lower body. The lip of the base is round and the lower pillar has one band of paint below a broad rib with a broader band above the rib.

Technology: This statue was wheel made with clear rill marks on the inside. The ear was created by attaching a piece of clay and then forming it while it was already attached to the head, in contrast to the locks of hair which would have been made of clay rolls prior to being attached.

D-1/b. Statue base fragments

CATALOGUE

WT 169-2/669 (Fig. 4.12:2; A2:3/7); Statue base and body; pale brown-pale yellow fabric (2.5Y 8/2–5Y 8/2), white core (2.5Y 8/1); H 6.8+, D 9.9+, T 3.4+ cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #50).

Description: WT 169-2/669 constitutes the base of a statue with a white to pale yellow fabric. This base is two tiered; the bottom edge is rounded with a thickness of 1.4 cm while the top tier is represented by a rounded rib, again with a thickness of 1.4 cm. This likely marks the hem or decorative border of the skirt as is seen on most of the other statues from this assemblage.

Technology: The base was wheel thrown with a thickened bottom edge. In a number of examples, there is a broad rib that appears to have been formed by adding extra clay for emphasis. This protrusion may represent the hem or fringe of the garment. The ceramic fabric contains several types of inclusions along with what appears to be a majority of oxide granules.

WT 240-4 (Fig. 4.12:3). Base; very pale brown exterior (10YR 7/3), pale brown interior (10YR 6/3); D 15.3 cm; broken.

Description: This large base does not reach the waist, but does indicate the attachment of some unidentified element on the skirt.

WT 170-2/670 (Fig. 4.12:4; A2:6/2)⁸⁷; Base; white exterior (10YR 8/1); very pale brown core (10YR 7/3); D 8.4, H 3.8+ cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #51).

Description: Sherd WT 170-2/670 constitutes one half of the base of a small statue. Its size and thinness indicates that it was part of a statue with a fairly small body diameter compared to other statue bases in this corpus. The hem of the skirt is not depicted; however, since the base is only preserved 3.8 cm in height, the hem may have been located higher up. The base flares out toward the bottom and ends in a flat lip.

Technology: This wheel made statue base has a uniform thickness of 0.6 cm. The clay fabric contains a multitude of very small, round to sub-round black inclusions, probably finely ground basalt.

WT 168-2/668 (Fig. 4.12:5; A2:15/4).⁸⁸ Base and body exterior, white–very pale brown fabric (10YR 8/1–10YR 8/2); H 6.6 +, W 10.7 +, D 3.5 + cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #49).

Description: Base WT 168-2/668 is a partially reconstructed statue base which depicts the hem of the skirt in the form of a sharp ridge. In this aspect, the skirt of this statue is different from others in the assemblage. The ridge itself is located 2.6 cm above the actual bottom edge of the statue.

Technology: The base was wheel made and the ridge appears to have been formed by a thickening or folding of the clay after which a tool was used to emphasize the edge of the ridge. The fabric contains many minute lithic inclusions along with some obtrusively large (0.4 cm) lithic and mineral inclusions.

D-1/c. Statue head fragments

Several head fragments from large statues can be identified on the basis of the attached locks of hair. More difficult to identify are those that appear bald, or nearly so, see WT 148.

CATALOGUE

WT 47-2/547 (Fig. 4.13:1; A2:0.5/46).⁸⁹ Head with locks of hair; light gray exterior (10YR 7/2), gray core (10YR 6/1); H 12.5, D 13.0 + cm; fragmentary (Daviau 2001c: #42).

Description: A group of sherds constitute the back and sides of a statue head with elements of the hairstyle and headband. The proportional size of these pieces indicates that it was a very large statue. There is evidence of locks of hair running vertically from the crown of the head to the neck. The locks appear to be spaced *ca.* 2.0 cm apart, with each lock measuring *ca.* 1.5 cm thick. The headband runs around the crown of the head and has small pellets of clay as added decoration. At the back of the head, the band appears to be tied in a knot, with two strands hanging diagonally from the knot.

Technology: The rill marks on the inside indicate that this head was wheel made. The locks of hair were formed as rolls of clay and then secured with additional strips of clay; the residue of these strips is visible where certain locks of hair have broken off. The decorative pellets on the headband were handmade and attached individually.

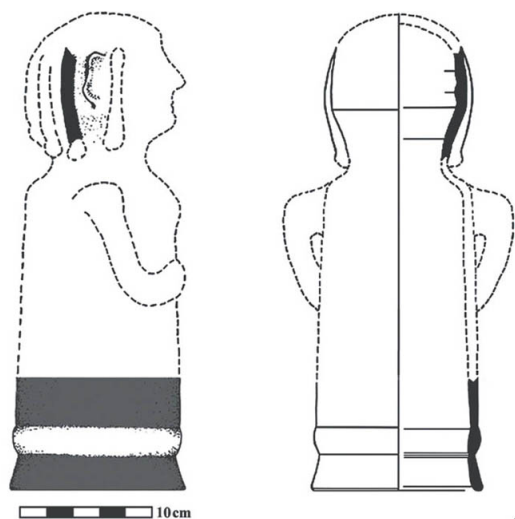


Figure 4.12. Partial statues and statue bases: 1) WT 310-5; 2) WT 169-2/669; 3) WT 240-4; 4) WT 170-2/670; 5) WT 168-2/668

WT 320-5 (Fig. 4.13:2; A1:25/39). Headband and hair lock; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3); H 2.40, W 4.40, T 8.00; fragment.

Description: A small fragment from the headdress of a statue. From what is preserved, this fragment appears to represent part of the

headband of a statue along with a lock of hair. The headband is in the form of a rounded piece of clay that was attached around the circumference of the head. The top of the head is depressed at the area of the headband but then rises toward the centre. The lock of hair extends vertically from the headband for a length of 1.5 cm, although it would have originally been much longer. From what is preserved it is likely that this fragment is close to the front of the head since there is no second lock within a space of 3.0 cm from the lock to the edge of the sherd.

Technology: The head appears to have been wheel made with handmade locks attached prior to the addition of the headband.

D-2. Statue body fragments

A number of unattached fragments of hair, face, arms, shoulders and hands from statues of various sizes were registered but could not be assigned to individual statues. Other fragments are only identified tentatively.

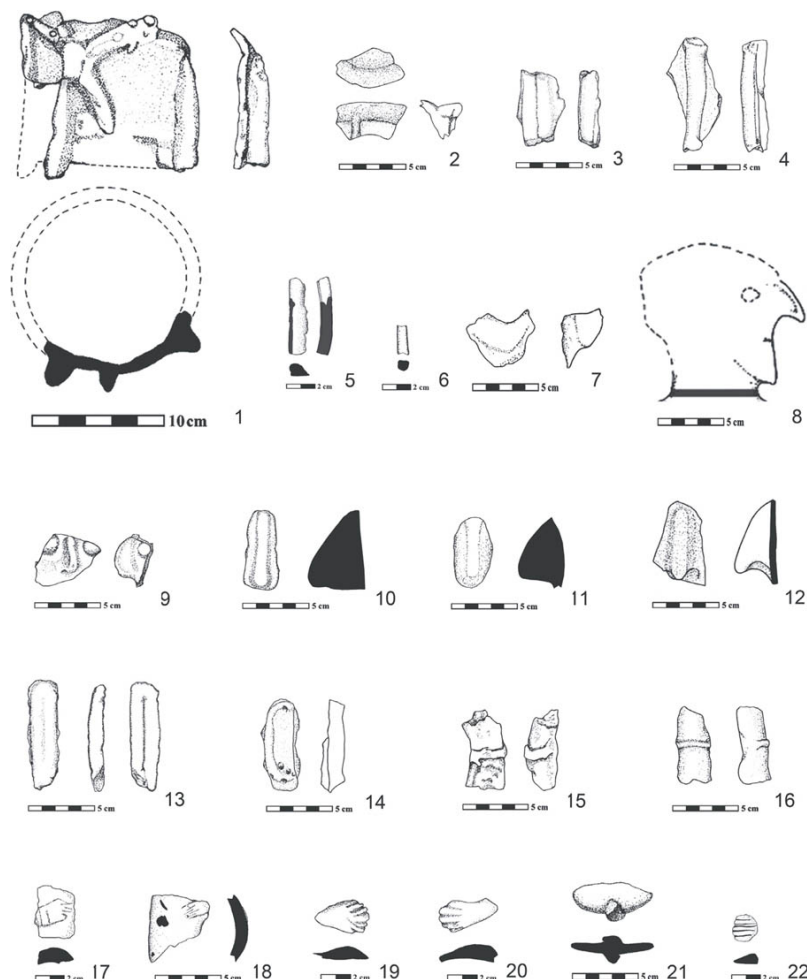


Figure 4.13. Heads and facial features: 1) WT 47-2/547; 2) WT 320-5; 3) 527-6; 4) WT 519-6; 5) WT 244-4; 6) WT 248-4; 7) WT 332-5/832; 8) WT 11-1/511; 9) WT 164-2/664; 10) WT 113-2/613; 11) WT 101-2/601; 12) WT 58-2/558; head and limb fragments; paired locks, 13) WT 441-6; perforated ears, 14) WT 447; arms, 15) WT 102-2/602; 16) WT 333-5; hands, 17) WT 14-1/514; 18) WT 252-3/752; 19) WT 161-2/661; 20) WT 208-3/708; 21) WT 154-2/654; 22) WT 29-1/529

D-2/a. Hair fragments

A number of hair locks could not be associated with any

individual statue. One group includes large strands while another group consists of fragments which are small, but slightly different in shape than the arms of pillar figurines, strongly suggesting the these fragments were more likely to be locks of hair. The red paint of lock WT 244 is typical in view of the residue of paint found in the crevices of hair locks on larger statues. One fragment in this group is tentatively identified as a head fragment with a lock of hair attached, WT 262.

CATALOGUE

Large hair fragments: WT 527-6 (Fig. 4.13:3); WT 519; (Fig. 4.13:4), possibly part of statue WT 189-2/689.

Small hair fragments: WT 244 (Fig. 4.13:5); WT 248 (Fig. 4.13:6); WT 406-4 and WT 411.

D-2/b. Face and nose fragments

One fragment appears to represent a chin and neck. Like other faces, there is no indication of a beard.

CATALOGUE

WT 332-5/832 (Fig. 4.13:7; A1:25/40). Statue chin; white (10YR 8/1); H 4.80, W 5.30, T 1.40; broken.

Description: The chin of a statue; the chin is rounded and gently curves towards the side of the head. It is not of the same square shape as is seen on the other preserved chin (WT244; mends with WT 11), which is more angular. It is raised from the neck ca. 0.4 cm. The chin was smoothed out where it protrudes above the neck.

Technology: This chin was handmade and it looks as if clay had been added to create the protrusion of the chin. This can be seen when looking at the profile.

The most distinctive face and nose is the one assigned to statue WT 11-1/511 (Figs. 4.8:4; 4.13:8). Smaller heads and separate noses appear in various shapes and sizes.

WT 164-2/664 (Fig. 4.13:9; A2:13/23). Statue face and head

sherd; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3); gray core (10YR 5/1); H 3.9+, W 5.0, T 2.0 cm; broken (Daviau 2001c: #53).

Description: This small facial fragment consists of the nose and eyes of a hollow statue. The nose in the centre of the fragment has a simple shape, thin and rounded. It protrudes from the face 1.5 cm and curves along its length. There is no representation of nostrils and the tip of the nose is chipped. The eyes on either side are also formed quite simply by the addition of small pellets of clay that were rounded and flattened. Each eye is situated *ca.* 0.3 cm away from the nose.

Technology: This is a handmade face with the features being added after the head was already formed. The nose was attached to the head and pinched on either side, which created a slight twist in the centre. The eyes were created by the addition of small rounded pieces of clay which were flattened against the face. The interior shows that it was probably not wheel made since there is no evidence for horizontal rills, instead there are several changes in the texture of the fabric and in the thickness and shape of the head.

WT 113-2/613 (Fig. 4.13:10; A2:0.5). Nose; light brown fabric (7.5YR 6/4), light brownish gray core (10YR 6/2); H 5.0, W 1.9, T 3.5 cm; fragment (Daviau 2001: #55).

Description: This fully preserved nose from a statue has a simple form with no details of the nostrils, as is seen in other examples (WT 58, WT 93=WT 11-1/511). Nose WT 113-2/613 is relatively straight with only a gentle curve from the top to the tip.

Technology: This is a handmade nose evident on the back where it would have been attached to the face. It is a separate piece of clay formed by hand. In its present condition, the fabric is somewhat rough and crumbly in comparison to the fabric used to form the other noses in this group.

WT 101-2/601 (Fig. 4.13:11; A2:11/20). Unattached fragment,

probable nose; light yellowish brown fabric (10YR 6/4), light brownish gray core (10YR 6/2); L 5.8, W 3.0, T 3.8 cm; fragment.

Description: Fragment WT 101-2/601 was most probably the nose of a statue, although the back is more rounded than that of other examples. The form of the nose is simple in that there are no details of the nostrils. The ridge is gently curved from top to tip.

Technology: This feature was handmade and would have needed extra clay to attach it to the face of a statue.

WT 58-2/558 (Fig. 4.13:12; A2:14/9). Nose; pink fabric (5YR 7/4), light brown core (7.5YR 6/4); H 6.6, W 4.5, T 3.1 cm; fragment (Daviau 2001c: #45).

Description: A fully preserved nose with detailed formation of the nostrils is unique in this corpus. The entire nose is preserved as well as part of the face to which it was attached. The nose curves gently along the ridge and ends in a rounded tip.

Technology: This nose was handmade prior to being attached to the face. The nostrils were created by finger impressions leaving a ridge in the middle between the two nostrils. The left nostril was slightly stretched to one side when compared with the right one. The rounded tip of the nose was formed in the process of impressing the nostrils and, as a result, extends beyond them.

D-2/c. Unusual head fragments

Features which occur as single examples or are of special interest are mentioned here. A paired hair lock made of the same fabric as statue WT 69-2/569 is similar to the attached double lock on Statue 2 from En Ḥaṣeva (Ben-Arieh 2011:96). The perforated ear suggests the suspension of multiple metal earrings although none were found *in situ*. The only statue head with a moulded earring is WT 148-2/648.

Paired hair locks: WT 441-6 (Fig. 4.13:13); possible fragment from statue WT 69-2/569.

Perforated ears: WT 447 (Fig. 4.13:14); possible fragment from statue WT 69-2/569.

E. Body fragments

E-1. Arm fragments

Although there are no parallels for these fragments among previously published statues, they do not correspond to any other object in the assemblage with the result that their identity here is a tentative.

CATALOGUE

WT 102-2/602 (Fig. 4.13:15; A2:7/17). Arm fragment with armband(?).

WT 333-5 (Fig. 4.13:16; A2:53/91). Arm fragment with armband(?).

E-2. Fragments of hands and body parts

CATALOGUE

WT 14-1/514 (Fig. 4.13:17; A2:15). Hand; white (10YR 8/1), pink core (7.5YR 7/4), reddish brown paint (5YR 5/4); H 5.4, W 4.6, T 1.6 cm; broken.

Description: The preserved left hand of a hollow statue or small figurine. The hand is placed lying flat against the abdomen of the figure. The fingers of the hand are depicted with incision lines running diagonally, giving it an almost paw-like appearance. Above the hand the clay rises slightly giving the profile a protrusion which may be a representation of a breast. There is a reddish brown (5YR 5/4) paint present on the wrist of the hand, and red (2.5YR 4/6) paint in the upper abdomen area.

Technology: The hand on the abdomen was recognizably handmade; by examining the section of the fragment it can be

seen how additional clay was added. The arm was crudely formed and pressed flat against the body while the fingers were roughly incised. A layering of the clay can be seen in the section of the hand.

WT 252-3/752 (Fig. 4.13:18; A2:39/54). Hand and torso; very pale brown (10YR 7/3), reddish brown paint (5YR 5/4); broken.

Description: One preserved hand and abdomen sherd. This hand is rather small measuring, 2.7 cm long and 1.4 cm wide. It is placed pointing downwards on the abdomen which appears to be protruding slightly. It is possible that the figure is holding or supporting some object. The fingers are depicted by incision marks, and at the tip of the index finger there is a small hole. Above the hand is a finished edge which suggests that there was an intentionally formed hole or window in the statue at this point. Around the fingers and the lower abdomen there are traces of reddish brown paint.

Technology: This statue is a combination of wheel made and handmade features. The attached hand and the window were handmade and added to the preformed wheel made statue. A unique feature of this statue is the finished edge above the hand.

WT 161-2/661 (Fig. 4.13:19; A2:23/35). Statue hand; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6); gray core (7.5YR 5/1); H 3.4, W 2.0, T 0.4 cm; broken.

Description: A human hand preserved from the wrist to the fingers. It is probable that this fragment is a representation of the right hand with the fingers stretching upwards to where a breast likely would have been. The fingers are crudely formed and two of them point in the opposite direction as the other three (possibly four) fingers. The bottom of the hand is flat and would have been attached to the torso of the statue.

Technology: This is a handmade statue hand formed of a separate

piece of clay. This clay was pressed onto the statue and then detailed. The fingers are depicted by incision marks running horizontally and diagonally.

WT 208-3/708 (Fig. 4.13:20; A4:1/5). Statue hand; white (2.5Y 8/2); H 3.9, W 2.0, T 0.9 cm; broken.

Description: The left hand from a statue which is preserved from the wrist to the fingers. The wrist of the hand is bent, curving upwards. The fingers are grooved into the clay and rise *ca.* 0.4 cm above the base of the groove. Only two of the fingers are fully preserved and they reach a length of 1.5 cm. The wrist is formed in the round and the hand is flat on the back where it would have been attached to the torso of the statue.

Technology: This statue hand was handmade and the wrist was formed in the round, suggesting that it would not have touched the statue. The inside of the fingers to the hand are pressed flat therefore suggesting that it would have been placed flat against the statue. The fingers were formed by incising.

F. Hand holding a drum

CATALOGUE

WT 154-2/654 (Fig. 4.13:21; A2:7/24). Hand holding musical instrument; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/4); H 5.5, W 2.5, T 2.0 cm; broken.

Description: A fragmentary piece of rounded clay running horizontally and attached to an oval shaped object likely represents a hand holding a musical instrument. The oval shaped object is finished on the outside but the inside is indented and flattened suggesting that something else fit together with it. It is likely that this is a representation of a drum or cymbals. The rounded piece of clay representing the hand is attached to the instrument on the middle edge. The hand was formed crudely being a simple rounded piece of clay with no details shown.

Technology: This is a handmade object, with the hand constructed separately and subsequently attached to the instrument. The instrument was also handmade and due to the flat surface of the interior it was likely pressed together while still wet.

WT 29-1/529 (Fig. 4.13:22; WT-13:0.5/16). Hand fragment; white (10YR 8/2); H 1.7, W 1.6, T 0.6 cm; broken.

Description and technology: A final fragment consists of a very small hand from a statue or figurine. The hand is formed of a piece of clay rounded on the top and flattened on the back. The fingers were depicted by incised marks.

G. Attachments on figurines and statues

Additional attachments are in the form of very small bowls and lamps.

G-1/a. Miniature bowls (Fig. 4.6:8–11)

Three miniature bowls (WT 23, Fig. 4.6:8; WT 387, WT 429), each with a maximum diameter less than 3.5 cm and one statue sherd with an ultra-small bowl fragment (WT 67) suggest that there were a number of figures holding miniature vessels.

CATALOGUE

WT 67-2/567 (A2:2/4) D 2.9, H 2.2 cm; Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) throughout.

G-1/b. Miniature lamps

A number of miniature lamps and lamp sherds were recovered, some of which were clearly attached to another object, possibly on the head of a figurine or ceramic statue.

CATALOGUE

WT 173-2 (Fig. 4.14:1; A2:7/24). Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) surface, pink (5YR 7/4) fabric.

WT 433-6 (Fig. 4.14:2; A10:0.5/101). D 5.7, H 5.1; int Dpt 2.9 cm;

reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) surfaces.

WT 434-4 (Fig. 4.14:3; R13:0.5/71). D 6.0, H 2.6 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) surfaces.

WT 432-6 (Fig. 4.14:4; A10:0.5/101). D 5.9, H 5.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) surfaces.

WT 435-2 (Fig. 4.14:5; A2:2/6). D 4.5, H 2.3 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) exterior.

WT 81-2 (Fig. 4.14:6; A2:2/4). D 8.6, H 3.6 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) surfaces.

At least one more shallow miniature lamp/bowl with a stump base (WT 349, Fig. 4.6:10) was apparently attached to a larger object.

Parallels

Tell en-Naşbeh: Although there is no evidence that this lamp was attached, it is a true miniature of the thick-base Judean lamp known at Beth Shemesh and at Tell en-Naşbeh itself (1839, Badè Collection).

Distribution, parallels and interpretation of statues

The distribution of known ceramic statues in the Levant extends in a long crescent from the Shephelah, through the Negev into Transjordan and northeast as far as the Habur in the middle Euphrates region of Syria, with WT-13 along this path. In certain instances, only one statue has been recovered, but these are such distinctive artefacts that the presence of diagnostic fragments of such figures is indicative of a more widespread tradition than could have been imagined prior to the excavations at Ḥorvat Qitmit. When Albright (1943:26–27; pl. 32:17) reported fragments of a small anthropomorphic “vase” from Stratum B at Tell Beit Mirsim, excavated in his 1928 and 1930 seasons, there were few parallels and it was assumed that this was a Cypriot juglet.⁹⁰ In order to distinguish statues from solid figurines, Petrie (1928:17) identified hollow female figures from Tell Jemmeh as “pot

figures”, comparable to an anthropomorphic jar from Lachich (6697; Tufnell 1958: pls. 48:5, 7–9; 86:1005). At present, the statues from Ḥorvat Qitmit and En Ḥaṣeva, which depict humans holding a bowl or playing a musical instrument or standing in a position of prayer (Beck 1995; Cohen and Yisraeli 1995; Ben Arie 2011)⁹¹ can all be associated with the statues at WT-13, as well as with two statues and one head from Tall Damiyah southwest of Tall Dayr Alla, and individual examples from Tall Madaba, Tall Jawa, Tall al-Umayri, Šabkhah in northern Jordan, and Tell Boueid on the Middle Euphrates. At Tall Madaba the left half of a statue has been restored (TM98.5M21U3.24.1), consisting of the left side of the neck with a three-lobed earring, along with the shoulder and full extent of the left arm against the torso. The wrist is marked by a thick band flanked by grooves and two fingers reach the folded edge of a large hole in the centre of the body. The left chest and a small breast are also preserved.⁹² Two nearly complete statues from Tall Damiyah consist of tall male bodies on broad bases, one preserved 40.5 cm and the other 41.0 cm in height. Similar to the large male (WT 11) from WT-13, these statues have small breasts and a protrusion well below the waist; surprisingly the hands have six fingers resting on the abdomen (Petit 2009b: fig. 8.39=Petit *et al.* 2006: fig.4; Petit 2016: fig. 18).⁹³ Although Tall Damiyah, located in the Jordan Valley south of the Zarka, is in a region with Ammonite material culture, the single large head that may be part of one of the statues (Petit 2016: fig. 13), does not reflect known Ammonite iconography. On the plateau, south of Amman, one fragment with the chin, neck and mouth of a statue has been recovered at Tall Jawa (TJ 2240=A3/31.1; Daviau, in preparation).⁹⁴ The face was covered with red slip, except for an area underneath the chin where it was painted to represent jewellery. At Tall al-Umayri, 5 km to the west of Tall Jawa, there are fragments of a statue or “cultic stand” consisting of a face with one eye painted in detail, a mouth and chin painted to depict a beard or tattooing, one shoulder and

pieces of the body. These fragments from Field H are dated to the Persian period by the excavators (Herr *et al.* 1999:108; fig. 17). At Şabkhah, east of Umm al-Jimal, an intact statue was discovered by local inhabitants (site 318; Glueck 1951: fig. 13) and at Tell Boueid a statue was recovered during excavation of Room 5 in an Iron Age building (Suleiman 1995:164; fig. 12). This statue is almost complete, with only the top of the head missing.

At present, the number of statues from WT-13 (21 distinct examples, not including ceramic fragments)⁹⁵ appears to be greater than that reported from the two site in the Negev-Arabah area. The location of this corpus in northern Moab, and the wider distribution of this type of statue, result in an important shift in the earlier interpretation of these figures as cultic objects that were primarily an element of Edomite religion. The fact that there is an even wider distribution, both in Moab, Ammon, northern Jordan and Syria indicates that it is premature to identify the ethnic affinities of this style of figure, since additional excavation may quickly alter the evidence yet again. Also of note in this regard is the style of the headband worn by several statues consisting of a band tied in the back with a knot and dangling ends. This same style is seen on the statue of an Ammonite king, Yarahʿ Azar (Abou Assaf 1980: pl. vi; Statuette IX) where the crossed headband is clearly delineated holding the hair in place on the back of the head.

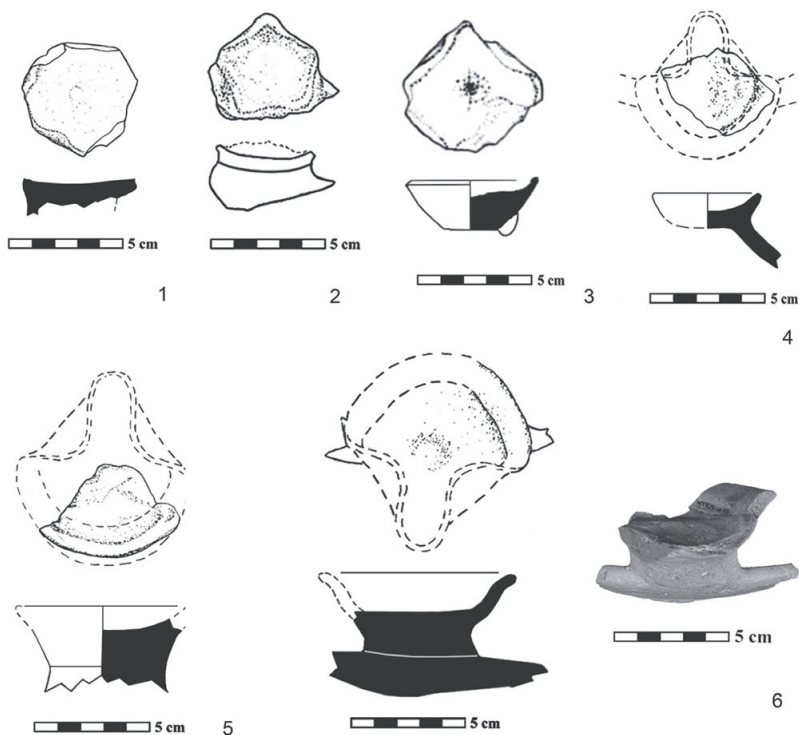


Figure 4.14. Lamp attachments: 1) WT 173-2; 2) WT 433-6; 3) WT 434-4; 4) WT 432-6; 5) WT 435-2; 6) WT 81-2

The meaning of the ceramic statues is less easy to determine, due in part to the fragmentary nature of a large portion of the assemblage. The basic assumption that they represent worshippers is based on two considerations; first, the fact that none are naked or carry obvious royal or divine insignia; and secondly, that several statues support lamps on their heads or carry what appears to be offerings or small vessels in their hands. Among these statues the most common position, hands resting on the abdomen, is suggested by only one statue at H̱orvat Qiṭmit (Beck 1995: figs. 3:21–23). More numerous parallels come from the corpus of more than 50 ceramic statues uncovered at Bithia in Sardinia (Pesce 1965: pls. iii, iv, vi, xiii). These shared features place the statues from WT-13 in the category of representational perpetual prayers

standing in the presence of the divine. Edlund (1987:136) makes the point that figurines of worshipers at cultic sites in Etruria are anonymous; the same is certainly true for the statues at WT-13.

H. Stone statuettes

At present, the class of stone statuettes consists of fragments of six anthropomorphic figures and one possible zoomorphic foot; one human head (WT 78-2/578; Daviau 2001c: #59; 1997:251) and one head fragment, two pairs of feet, and two torsos, all carved from limestone. Each of these is a distinct type with no parallels at present to constitute recognized groups. The same can be said for a “marble” statuette recovered in an Iron Age II context at Tell Boueid (Suleiman 1995: fig. 14) and a human stone statue fragment from ԸEn Դաֆեա (Ben-Arieh 2011: figs. 44–46).

H-1. Stone heads

H-1/a. Male head

CATALOGUE

WT 78-2/578 (Fig. 4.15:1; A2:9/14). Limestone head; H 7.4, W 3.6, T 4.1 cm; broken (Daviau 2001:#59).

Description: A small head, sub-rectangular in shape with only the details of the face preserved, bears almost no resemblance to Levantine figurines. The eyes are incised, but are not on the same level. The mouth is also incised, and well preserved, although the nose is damaged. There is only one ear on the right side of the head. In profile, the face slopes from the crown to the tip of the nose, rather like an Easter Island sculpture.

Parallels

Tall al-ԸUmayri: A hand-made ceramic head with a pinched face and large nose, pellet eyes and a straight mouth (U1052; Dabrowski 1997: fig. 18.10) is the only figurine that bears any similarity in shape to WT 78.

H-1/b. Statuette head with Egyptian hairdo

CATALOGUE

WT 230-4/730 (Fig. 4.15:2; A2:39/58). Back of head showing hair; white (10YR 8/1) throughout; L 5.5, W 3.1 cm; fragment (Daviau 2015: fig. 3:4).

Description: A small stone fragment preserves the back of a human head with deeply incised details of the hair. The back of this head is only partially preserved but the hairstyle is carefully incised. It is divided into three different layers, separated by horizontal incisions. The top layer consists of hair extending horizontally across the crown. Since this area was badly damaged, it is difficult to determine how many locks were depicted. The second layer has four preserved locks of hair extending vertically 1.8 cm, as does the third layer which has seven locks. On the right side of the head there is an oval hole cut into the side. It appears that the hair curves around the hole, suggesting that it was intentional. From the style of hair, it is probable that this head represents a male with an Egyptian style hairdo.

Technology: This statuette head was handmade using a sharp tool to mark the incisions in the limestone. The stone is a relatively soft making it easy to create the incision lines which formed the hair.

H-2. Female torso

CATALOGUE

WT 180-3/501 (Fig. 4.15:3; A10:0.5/71). Upper torso; H 6.2, W 4.3, T 2.9 cm; broken.

Description: This small stone female torso extends from the neck to the top of the hips. At the level of the waist, there are two holes, where arms were inserted. This feature is seen on certain wooden or metal figurines, as well as on limestone statuettes, notably the figurine of El from Ugarit (70M981; Yon *et al.* 1990: fig. 1). It is assumed that the arms were fashioned out of a different material than the body. An alternate explanation would be that

outstretched arms could be broken easily and were designed to be removed for safety. This would imply that the figurine was a peace figure with hands in a blessing position. As examples of a female in this position are two metal figurines from Syria, one from Ugarit identified as Asherah (1630; Shaeffer 1966:5; Negbi 1976: fig. 129) and an unprovenienced goddess with a horned headdress (1633; Negbi 1976: pl. 45). However, the arms of these metal figurines are an integral part of the body.

H-3. Stylized pillar statuette

CATALOGUE

WT 182-3/502 (Fig. 4.15:4; A10:0.5/71). Torso; H 12.5, W 6.5, T 5.1 cm; broken.

Description and technology: Limestone figurine WT 182 is relatively cylindrical in shape and is preserved from neck to base. The only anatomical detail consists of an incised vertical groove between two small incised rectangles to indicate the breast area. The stump of one arm remains, while the second is broken off. The statuette was roughly carved with a flat base that protrudes slightly in the front and back, although no details of the feet are preserved.

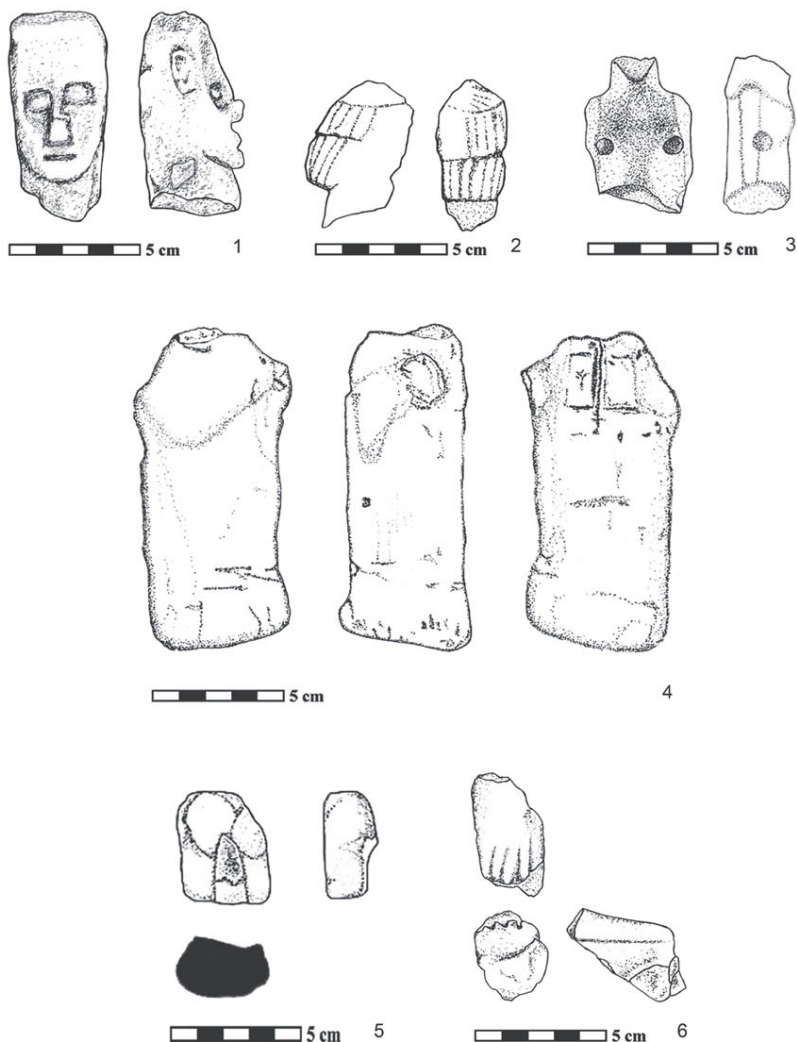


Figure 4.15. Stone statuettes: male head, 1) WT 78-2/578; head with Egyptian hairdo, 2) WT 230-4/730; female torso, 3) WT 180-3/501; pillar statuette, 4) WT 182; feet, 5) WT 278-4/778; 6) WT 550-6

H-4. Feet

Along with the stone statuettes are three fragments; a pair of feet, a human foot and a possible animal foot/paw (see [Chapter 5](#)). The statuettes to which these limbs belonged have not been identified,

since they appear to be disproportionate when compared to the torso fragments identified to date.

CATALOGUE

WT 278-4/778 (Fig. 4.15:5; A4:4/11). Pair of feet; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) throughout; H 2.1, W 3.4, D 4.1 cm; fragment.

Description: The feet are positioned flat on the base, with the right foot larger than the left. Details of the toes of the right foot are indicated by parallel grooves, although there are two diagonal cut marks that obscure the first two toes. At the break, the base of the right leg is also larger than the base of the left one. A horseshoe shaped groove separates the feet, indicating that the legs were not touching, at least between the ankles.

Technology: The feet were hand-carved with little shallow cuts to indicate the toes, while the base is relatively flat with few discernible tool marks.

WT 550-6 (Fig. 4.15:6; A6:15/52). Right(?) foot; L 4.7, W 2.6, H 3.4 cm; limestone; fragment.

Description: A single foot, supported on a flat base, was broken on an angle. All five toes are preserved and were individually carved, clearly distinguishing the large toe from the rest of the foot.

Summary and analysis

The corpus of anthropomorphic figures from WT-13 consists of 163 ceramic figurines, statues, stone statuettes and identifiable figurine or statue fragments. This is a significant number compared to the 68 examples from all sites and regional surveys in Moab studied previously (Daviau 2001c).⁹⁶ This final number includes figurines, free-standing and attached, protomes, male and female figurine heads, bodies, faces and other features, pillar figurines, seated figures, pillar-shaped ceramic statues and stone statuettes. In this assemblage, additional types have been added to the original typology and new features are now recognized, including male figures with hair styles previously unknown.

Female figurines ([Chart 4.1](#)) continue to dominate the corpus with a total of 92 figurines (including fragments); 43 of these are pillar figurines, 47 can be identified as free-standing or attached, two of which are considered to be protomes (one of these may be of indeterminate sex). Among the stone statuettes, two appear to be female. These numbers do not include fragments of figures, the sexual identity of which cannot be identified, such as isolated arms and feet.

Identifiable male figurines are fewer, as are generic anthropomorphic figurines ([Chart 4.2](#) and [4.3](#)). The sex of the statues is less well defined than of the figurines, not only due to the number of partially preserved statues in the corpus but also because of the iconographic conventions exhibited in this class of figures. Mended sherds were not included in the count.

Iconography

Obvious differences can be seen between the iconography of the figurines and that of the statues. These differences manifest themselves in three aspects of their appearance and provide evidence for interpreting the function and meaning of the images:⁹⁷ firstly, of their appearance as naked or clothed; secondarily, of the position of the hands; and finally, the treatment of the hair and the details of their sex. A minor aspect is the presence of jewellery.

Appearance

Naked or clothed

In evaluating the entire corpus, it now appears that the pillar figurines and statues, with a solid skirt below the waist and details of clothing or fabric design, represent figures that were fully clothed, in other words, human figures. The naked figures stand out and their nudity must be considered as an indicator of divine or semi divine status.⁹⁸ Naked female figures appear on a wide

variety of objects, such as the bronze horse frontlet inscribed by Hazael that was donated to the Heraion on Samos (Kyrieleis 1993: fig. 7.15; Dion 1997: fig. 13). Here a naked female stands on a lion's head and holds up two lions' heads which support two of the three naked females above her, each one holding her breasts. Kyrieleis suggests that these figures are associated with Astarte who appears as a naked warrior goddess on Egyptian stelae, ostraca and seals from the Rammeside period, as mentioned above.⁹⁹ It is these figurines at WT-13 that are shown holding a disc with both hands parallel to the torso, with no suggestion by the position of their hands that they are striking the disc. This interpretation does not detract from the suggestion that these figurines were votive gifts, as was the Hazael frontlet, although the means by which the frontlet reached the Heraion may not have been direct. Kyrieleis (1993:148) suggests that the gifts at the sanctuary were evidence of wide spread trade patterns operative during the 7th century, although some gifts may have been earlier donations.

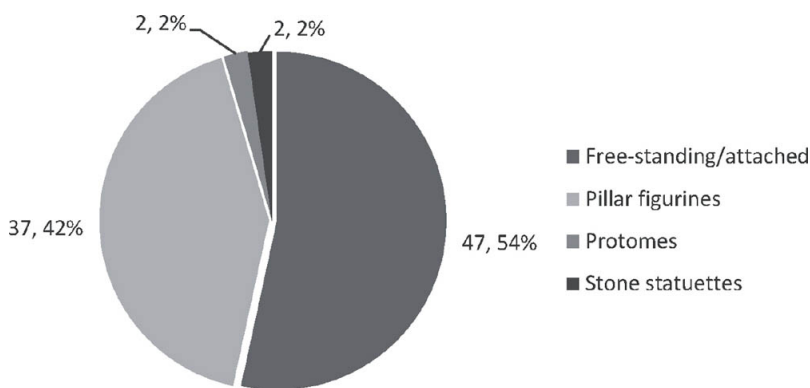


Chart 4.1. Occurrence of female ceramic figurines and stone statuettes at WT-13

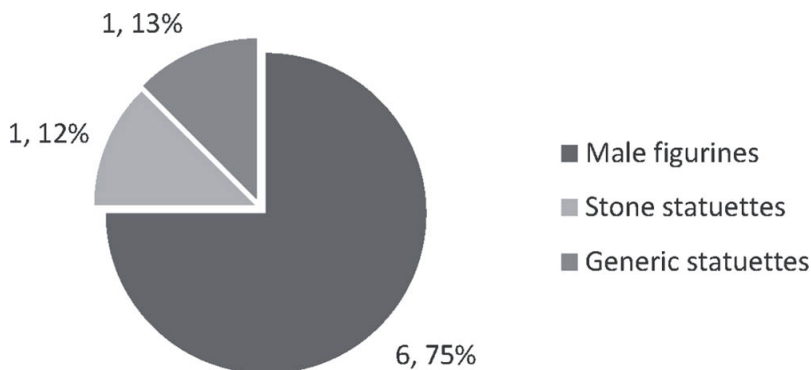


Chart 4.2. Occurrence of male statuettes and generic anthropomorphic figures

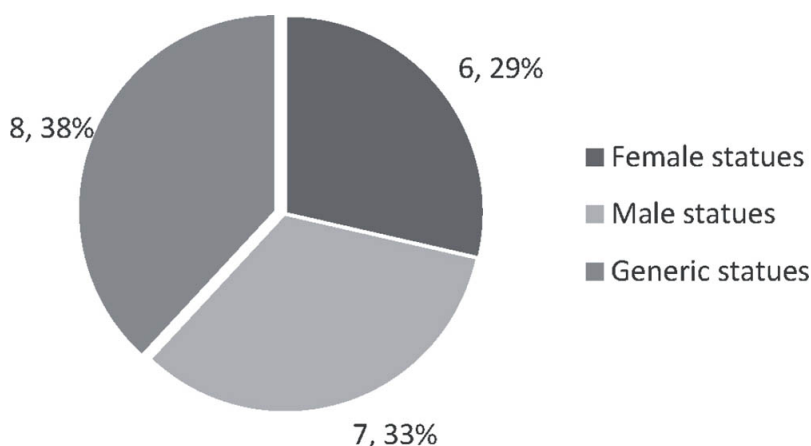


Chart 4.3. Occurrence of female, male and generic statues

Position of the hands

Various positions: The position of the hands¹⁰⁰ of certain figurines is identical with that of some statues, for example, those with their hands resting on their abdomen or hanging down on either side. Only a small number of figurines and statues are of females who hold or cover their breasts. So too, few carry an object in their hands or play a frame drum. Seated figurines, and statues that carry a lamp on the head, are also few in number. What seems apparent from this summary is the great variety of styles, some

with Phoenician attributes and others previously unknown in the region. The recognition of the long history of naked female figurines in the region and of disc-bearing figures does link the assemblage to Levantine traditions. At the same time, the widespread parallels and the paucity of comparable material from other Moabite sites, with the exception of Balu¹⁰⁰, make it impossible to crystallize a specific Moabite style. On the other hand, lack of Judean pillar figurines with their distinctive moulded or pinched heads is not surprising.

In regard to hand position as an indicator of cultic action, the more precise indicators are seen in the figurines that strike a drum, the statues that carry an offering and the statues that bear a lamp on their head.

Holding the breasts: Only three figures are shown holding their breasts. This position, so common among Judean pillar figurines, is much less common in the iconography of Moab. Two positions are represented; the hands cover a pair of small breasts, or the hands appear to be squeezing the breasts. In the first position, the hands completely cover the breasts, so that the breasts are barely visible. In the second position, the thumb is shown on the outer side of each breast while the fingers surround the breast on the opposite side. The naked female figurine squeezing her breasts is extremely common on Cyprus,¹⁰¹ with 17 examples from the tombs at Amathus that Karageorghis (1987:21; figs. 4, 5, pls. xii:57–xiv:72) attributes to the spread of the Phoenician cult of Astarte during the Cypro-Achaic I period (750–600 BC). Other examples of similar naked figurines were recovered at Kition, Idalion, Tamassos, Arsos and at Samos (Karageorghis 1999: pls. i:1–8, vii:3–xi:1).¹⁰² Primary examples from the Phoenician homeland are attributed to sites on the Levantine coast, such as Tell Kazel in the north (Capet and Gubel 2000: fig. 22) and Akhzib in the south (Gubel 1991: pl. xxxiv:a, e).¹⁰³

Holding an offering: Even less well represented is the position of

hands holding a stack of bread loaves or other object as an offering. Miniature bowls suggests that there were a number of figures holding miniature vessels. This position is also seen on an intact pillar figurine from Kition, probably, but not certainly, a female, who holds in both hands a bowl, which is large relative for her size (Collection of the Louvre, AM 1172).

Supporting a lamp

Partially preserved statue heads with a lamp attached or a scar on the crown, along with detached miniature lamps, provide evidence for lamp statues. No figurines with lamps were recognized in the sherd material, although such figurines are not unknown, for example a drum playing figurine from Kamelarga supports a lamp on her head (Moscatti 1988: fig. 42). At WT-13, only statues retain evidence that they supported lamps.

Hair styles

Hairstyles among women include a local style of vertical locks, either plain or with vertical or diagonal incisions representing strands of hair, or an Egyptian style with locks ending in a blunt cut. Another style has curls above the forehead, as does a male figurine. Individual locks of hair in the form of vertical coils are represented on several statues, although there are examples of bald heads among the statues, as well as one male figurine and a stone statuette. Figurines with diagonal grooves in the locks of their hair are also found at sites in Phoenicia proper and on Cyprus, although in small numbers. Gubel (1991:133) also attributes the herringbone grooves on the locks of hair to “Phoenico-Ammonite (Edomite or Moabite)” influence that extended to both the eastern and western ends of the trade route from the Red Sea to Cyprus. There is also one other hair treatment, namely the covering of the hair with a scarf or “veil”, a style seen also at Baluḫ.

Adornment

There is little evidence that suggests jewellery on either the figurines or statues apart from an occasional necklace, earring, bracelet, girdle or anklet.

Regionalism

Several common types of female figurines are not represented in this diversified corpus. These types include the Judean pillar figurines, with a tightly curled hairdo and breasts supported by both hands and the pregnant seated female figure popular at Phoenician sites, such as Makmish (Avigad 1960: pl.11:a-b) and Akhziv (Prausnitz 1993:33), where they have been dated to the early Persian period (Prausnitz 1960:261).

Although the precise function of the statues found in northern Jordan and northeastern Syria is not clarified by their context, the discovery of a collection of ceramic statues in the Jordan Valley and in northern Moab, associated with sanctuaries, figurines and other cultic objects, supports the interpretation of such statues as votive figures and links them to the sites in the Negev and Arabah. Their appearance at far-flung Phoenician sites may point to the region of their initial inspiration, although along the Phoenician coast the principal examples of hollow figures are the pregnant female figurines. In the following chapters, the relationship of these anthropomorphic figures to the remaining categories of material culture will be discussed in order to reconstruct the various cultic practices carried out at WT-13.

Notes

- 1 “Gods, Goddesses, Men and Women in Ammonite Religious Iconography”, a paper presented at the Ancient Near Eastern Figurines Colloquium, Tallinn, Estonia, September 2015.
- 2 Jacobs (2001) notes the difficulty of distinguishing between multiple religious praxes and syncretism.
- 3 In her study of the Ḥorvat Qitmit cultic objects, Beck (1995)

began with hollow statues, apparently designing her typology to proceed from large to small figures. This may be based on the unusual nature of the jar-shaped statues, although she offers no explanation for her taxonomy.

4 Such extensive descriptions are also a contribution of S. Paz (2007) in her discussion of 98 published and unpublished figurines holding a disc or drum; see also D. Sugimoto (2008), who includes figurines from Jordan.

5 The category of “Objects” includes artefacts (recognizable figurines) and samples, which consist of all ceramic fragments and sherds that may in some way have been part of a figurine or statue.

6 The Wadi ath-Thamad registration system usually identifies a mendable item, object or ceramic vessel, by its lowest registration number. In the case of objects from Site WT-13, certain of the figurines and statues were prepared for publication in 1998, before excavation ended. With the discovery of additional fragments, and thanks to continued mending, certain objects now consist of fragments with registration numbers lower than the number published in Daviau 2001c. The original object numbers for these statues and figurines were retained so that there is no discrepancy in the published works. This policy also affects the manner in which objects are presented in the database.

7 Figures illustrate several views of each figure; the front, side and back are shown from left to right.

8 Finds recovered during the 1996 survey were assigned to pottery pails numbers in the Wadi ath-Thamad register; these pails are not assigned to a particular field + square because there was as yet no local grid. Such artefacts have the following information: registration number, WT-13:0.5 / pail#. In this siglum, 0.5 represents a surface or ‘clean-up’ locus.

9 Holladay (1987:291, n. 109) has shown definitively that zoomorphic figurines in Israel and Judah were associated with domestic and what he calls ‘non-conformist’ religious practices; in this, Kletter (1996:73, 78) agrees that they were not toys. Apart from well-known examples such as Cave I at Jerusalem (Holland 1977) and the site of Ḥorvat Qiṭmit (Beck 1995), Holladay (1987:270) reminds us of Trench E 207 at Samaria (Crowfoot and Sukenik 1957). For a comparison of Cave 1 and E 207, see Steiner

(1997).

10 Kletter (1996: fig. 2) gives 1,852 as the total number of Iron Age anthropomorphic figurines from Israel including those from Cave I studied by Holland, not the 3,000 estimated by I. Cornelius, who lists the corpus from Cave I separately (2004:21–22).

11 INAA testing was carried out by the Institute of Nuclear Techniques, Budapest University of Technology and Economics; see Chapter 8.

12 In his analysis, Abu Assaf (1996) classified the figurines from Ain Dārā as either mould made or handmade. Within these two classes, he defined various types on the basis of the position of the hands and on their general appearance, including details of clothing and adornments.

13 The schematic features on the back side of Iron Age figurine bodies that were twice moulded (Kletter *et al.* 2010:19–21; figs. 4, 11, 13) are not seen on the free-standing figurines in this study. Those with individually formed legs on both back and front sides may have been partially modeled by hand.

14 The same diagonal position of the feet of naked female figures is seen on the thymiaterion from Tomb 47/57 at Salamis (Karageorghis 1980: fig. 8, 9).

15 Stager (1982:119, n. 34) suggests that these figures are related to lactation, while S. Ackerman (2003:463–465), following Hestrin (1987), and Kletter (1996) affirm the relationship of pillar figurines to the worship of Asherah. The bodily disproportion is most clearly seen in those figurines with a short pillar relative to their overall height; for a different description of the figurines, see Steiner (1997:19).

16 A number of female figurines holding their breasts have been recovered in Cyprus. This style, derived from the Levant, is represented predominantly by free-standing figurines. In certain instances the fingers of the hands are well defined, however, in other cases, the hands are in the form of mittens which either support or cover the breasts (Karageorghis 1999: pl. iii:2, 5–9).

17 The figurines and statues from the region of Moab studied previously by Daviau (2001c) were numbered (1–68) for ease of discussion; these numbers are included here at the end of each catalogue description if warranted. Madaba Museum numbers,

assigned by the curator, Ms Reem Shqour, are designated as M.#.

18 The waist area of WT 518-6/519 is cylindrical, whereas examples of pillar figurines from WT-13 are conical from the level of the breasts to the base.

19 For the most part, the shoulders and arms of the pillar figurines from WT-13 are poorly defined and unnaturally low on the body (see details, below).

20 Typical of the figurines at WT-13, the breasts are small enough to be covered by the hands. The long breasts of a female mould from Tel Batash (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: photo 134) and of one of the ceramic statues discussed below (WT 165) are not represented.

21 Late Bronze plaques of a naked female in relief with a Hathor style hairdo are not found among the Iron Age figurines from central Jordan. Two such plaques (4663, 4664), which Fischer compares with examples dating to LB I, were recovered from a tomb in the Jordan Valley at Saḥem (Fischer 1997:61; fig. 23:1, 2). Ceramic female heads with Hathor hair style appear at Mudayna Thamad in 7th-century contexts (figurine MT 1884-8/11 and protome MT 2402), but these are not plaque figurines, for example, of the type illustrated by Macalister (1912: pls. ccxx, ccxx:1-18) and Tufnell (1958: pls. 49:1, 4, 5).

22 The wig with a blunt cut appears already in the Old Kingdom (for example, on the statue of Neset, Dynasty III; Smith and Kelly Simpson 1998: fig. 57), as well as on small *psš-kf* amulets (Roth 1992: fig. 7:c, d, f, g) from the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom. In fact, the facial features of these amulets resemble Palestinian female figurines with their broad noses and straight mouths more than they do the female offering bearers from the Middle Kingdom tomb of Gemni-em-hat (Jørgensen 1996: pl. 49).

23 The problem of terminology has been addressed previously by Daviau (2001c:318); in this study also, the term “plaque” is reserved for those figurines moulded onto a tablet; the term is not used for other mould-made figurines.

24 A left shoulder and upper arm fragment (WT 410) represents a figurine of similar size; further comparison is not possible because the area of the front shoulder, where the hairdo would be located,

is shattered.

25 A double row of small pellets across the forehead of a female figure kneeling in front of a lotus plant may represent a “beaded headband” (Herrmann 1986:117; pl. 73:322; ND 9486).

26 This figurine was originally registered as WT 20, since it came from WT-1 (Khirbat al-Mudayna ath-Thamad), prior to the discovery of WT-13, where all artefacts were assigned numbers beginning with “WT”; with the beginning of excavation, Mudayna Thamad finds were distinguished from finds at other sites in the survey by the *siglum* “MT” + #.

27 The diagonal grooves on the hair locks are a common feature in the Syrian style (Prag 1987: figs. 5, 7) and is seen on the pillar figurine holding a drum from Shiqmona (Elgavish 1993:1374).

28 Eyes formed by the application of pellets of clay are rare, although there are a handful of examples of eyes formed by the addition of ridges of clay.

29 Animal protomes are also possible, but none were present at Site WT-13.

30 One example (MT(S)=#54) reported by Sauer (1981:64) is difficult to classify but has been included here.

31 Although he cited Weinberg properly in his bibliography “A Moabite Shrine Group,” Kletter (1996:239) is of the opinion that this cultic assemblage originated in Edom.

32 For a study of the male figurines from Ammonite sites, see  Amr (1980); Dabrowski (1997, 2000).

33 The opinion of this author is that the designation of ovoid features as “coffee bean” is a misnomer. It is more likely that Neolithic female figurines with oval eye slits represent grain kernels, the basic staple of the new agricultural communities (for example, Ubaid figurines from Ur and Eridu; Lloyd 1984: figs 15, 16).

34 Another style of headband is seen on the male figurine head from Mudayna Thamad recovered by Glueck (1934:23; fig. 6). This male head has a headband with a knot (or ornament?) in the front and a headdress with vertical lines of paint covering the hair in the back. It is not clear whether these lines represent tassels of the headband; Glueck himself thought that the band was tied in the front.

35 The representation of the full male genitalia appears on a small number of metal figurines; for example, one from Tell Judeideh (Negbi 1976: fig. 71), which Pritchard dates to MB I, and a second unprovenanced metal figure, possibly from Byblos (Pritchard 1943:22; pl. 17) assigned to his Byblo-Egyptian group. In the Cypriot tradition, nudity is more common, evident in the Early Bronze Age scenic vessels and the statuette of the ejaculator (Morris 1985: fig. 175). In the later Phoenician tradition, especially where it was influenced by Greek culture, examples include a kouros figure from Amrit (Lembke 2004: pl. 12:a), a seated temple boy from Cyprus (ca. 300 BC; Kershaw 1983:56; no. 101) and bell-shaped hollow figures from Bithia in Sardinia (Moscato 1988:681; nos. 576, 577).

36 In the drawing of this figure, the right arm is shown, whereas in the photo it is the left arm (Oren 1973: fig. 50:15 vs. fig. 76:3); it is unfortunate that the back view is not shown in the photo, since it may provide a clue to the sex of the figure.

37 This appears to be the case for a figurine holding a drum found in the shrine of Tanit-Ashtart at Sarepta, since a depression in the neck remains even though the head is missing (Pritchard 1978: fig. 137). A figurine head from Khirbat al-Mudayna also has a peg in the neck (Glueck 1970: fig. 94; see below for an explanation of the two different identifications of this figurine in Glueck's reports on his survey work in Moab). Examples of this technique can be seen in one female head from Tall Dayr Alla (van der Kooij and Ibrahim 1989: photo 126) and a second from Tell Jemmeh (Petrie 1928: pl. xxxvi:44).

38 This same treatment, resulting in a very long neck, is evident on a number of Judean figurines (Albright 1943: pl. 29:12). Kletter (1996: fig.25) distinguishes the upper neck from the lower neck to account for this feature.

39 A second figurine (MT 1-1/1; Daviau 2001c: #3), holding a disc in such a way that it is covered by her hands, was recovered during the 1995 surface survey at Mudayna Thamad. This figurine also has two locks of hair resting on her chest on either side of the disc.

40 The close position of the arms is characteristic of Levantine figurines, a technique which provides more security for these small limbs. In contrast, the Aegean style figurines of disc holders from

Amathus have arms that swing out from the body on either side (Karageorghis 1987: pl. iii:9, for example).

41 Glueck (1934:24) published two heads of veiled figures, one head from al-Balu⁹ and a second from Mudayna Thamad. Glueck described the latter as having a “prong by which it was attached to the body”. Since the caption under the illustration of these heads (Fig. 7a, b) does not agree with the text, Glueck (1970:188) later identified these same heads as representing a “female fertility goddess” and designated the head with the prong as the one found at Mudayna Thamad. This time, the caption (fig. 94) is in agreement with the text (Daviau 2001c: n. 15).

42 In the three cases where the disc is perpendicular to the body, the breasts are visible (Mount Nebo tomb, #28, #29 and WT 53).

43 The facial features evoke the face of a monkey, although the ears are not in the same position as those on monkey figurines from Ammon (Bienkowski 1991: pl. 36).

44 If more than one mould was used, they were extremely close in size; the principal difference is the appearance of the eyes, a feature which could have been modified by hand.

45 This head from Mudayna Thamad (MT 309-3/309) is so close in all of its features to WT 315-5/505 that it could have been made from the same mould. If this were the case, it would provide important evidence for the relationship between town and shrine.

46 At Mudayna Thamad, limestone altars play a major role (Daviau 2007; 2014a), whereas at WT-13, only one altar was identified (Chapter 5).

47 The description appears to combine information on another figurine, namely 3233m, which has arm holes at the elbow, whereas figurine 5571 does not.

48 Observed by the writer in the collection on display in the A. G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Cypriot Antiquities at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON, Canada.

49 The lower end of the lock is missing, with the result that only the diagonal grooves can be used to identify the style.

50 In total, 161 recognizable figurine and statue fragments and intact figurines were registered.

51 So far, only one drum and one figurine fragment can be attributed to this type.

52 For a discussion of the drum in antiquity, see the studies by Meyers (1987, 1991), who explains the difference between the frame drum and the tambourine. Meyers cites evidence to the effect that tambourines as we know them can only be “authenticated” subsequent to the 12th century AD. A photograph of a group of musicians and a dancer, posed and made by Bonfils between 1885–1888, shows one woman supporting a tambourine with her left hand and striking it with her right; all musicians are seated (Goodwin 1985:61).

53 Comparison of the depiction of the disc on Moabite figurines with figurines from the Jordan Valley and western Palestine reveals significant differences. One feature is the apparent lack of decoration on the disc itself. A simple design can be seen on discs held by figurines found at Tall Dayr ʿAlla (van der Kooij and Ibrahim 1989: photo 128) and Tall as-Saʿidiyah (Tubb, Dorrell and Cobbing 1996: fig. 22), while an elaborate disc design appears at Beth Shan (Glueck 1970: fig. 93, right), Tell el-Farḥah (N) (Chambon 1984: pl. 63:2) and Gezer (Macalister 1912: fig. 499). A female holding an elaborate disc reported by Harding (1937: pl. x:9) may have come from Transjordan but is without known provenience.

54 See also the woman drummer in the ceremony for “raising of the *djed* pillar at the *sed* festival of Amenhotep III” (Robins 1993: fig. 38).

55 McGovern (1985) did not identify the female images on the Late Bronze Age pendants he studied, since his interest was the material and forming techniques employed by ancient craftsmen. Cornelius (2004), on the other hand, grouped stelae, plaques and pendants of the naked female holding flowers or serpents together in his discussion of Qedeshet (Qudshu).

56 In an earlier study (Daviau 2007:297), the writer suggested that these discs represent tambourines. Now, however, it appears that other interpretations are more likely.

57 This statue may be closer in size to those from ʿEn Ḥaṣeva (ca. 60.0 cm); personal communication, Jan Gunnerweg, January 2002.

58 The lack of decoration on the body of several ceramic statues from WT-13 is in contrast to the row of cowrie shells attached to figure no. 23 from Ḥorvat Qitmit (Beck 1995). Faint remains of

painted decoration can be seen in only a few instances (see below).

59 The shape of the lower body of many of the statues from the temple at Ayia Irini on Keos was also elliptical in shape (Caskey 1986: pls. 77, 79, 81, 84, 85).

60 The best illustration for our purposes are the photographs in Abou Assaf (1980: Tafel vi), because he shows the statue from the front, back and left side. These photographs present a clear view of the headband, which encircles the head and crosses in the back. The ends of the band hang diagonally across the locks of hair.

61 In another study of the Ḥorvat Qitmit statues, Beck (1993:233) made note of certain features which suggest contact with Amman and sites in the Jordan Valley, especially the chin beard which she identifies as a feature typical of cultures located in eastern Palestine.

62 Rows of clay pellets are used as a decorative motif on various artefacts; for example on a ceramic stand from Megiddo (May 1935: pl. xix: P 159).

63 Assyrian influence is reflected in the royal iconography of the local ruler of Sakçe Gözü who wears a rosette headband; in this example, the tassels are not present. A statue found at Malatya, possibly of the same ruler (Mutallu of Kummukh?), shows that the band of rosettes is continuous (Hawkins 1984:83; pl. 120a). Both examples date to the late 8th century.

64 This small ivory head shows very clearly the carved rosette and inlaid-gem headband which was tied in a knot at the back and had tassels hanging down among the locks of hair.

65 This is in contrast to the statues from Ḥorvat Qitmit where the dominant forming technique is to make a rim and neck of a jar to form the lower body or skirt of a statue (Beck 1996:104). Beck claims that the base of only one statue from En Ḥaṣeva was formed in the shape of a jar neck (Beck 1996: fig. 2C), while the lower skirt and base on the statues from WT-13 appear more consistently to have been made in this manner, resulting in a conical or slightly flaring base with rounded edge (see WT 11-1/511, 166-2/666, 170).

66 Caskey (1986:xxvii) identifies this discolouration or shadow as evidence for a clay join; a place where a feature was applied which was separated from the statue over time. The initial presence of the

attachment prevented the heat of the kiln from touching the surface of the underlying object.

67 Although there are no statues from the important Moabite site of Dhībân, one small figurine does have applied locks of hair (Tushingham 1972: fig. 28:45).

68 The measurement for the diameter (D) of the torso is given, or of the best preserved portion, such as the head.

69 Mends with WT 145 (A2:18/37) and WT 157 (A2:18/37); for other examples of mendable fragments, see the objects database.

70 Mends with WT 44 (A2:2/6).

71 Mends with WT 122 (A1:1/5), and with sherds WT 13-A2.54.10, A2.55.17, A2.58.5.

72 Mends with WT 98 (A2:18/37), WT 134 (A2:13/19, WT 142 (A2:11/20), WT 151 (A2:28/38), WT 241 (A2:39/54).

73 At ʿEn Ḥaṣeva, Statues 1 and 2 lack ears (Ben-Arieh 2011:111, 114), as do the two statues from Ḥorvat Qitmit, although the heads are only partially restored (Beck 1995: figs. 3.17, 3.19–23). However, ears are present in the sherd material (Beck 1995: fig. 3.65).

74 At a time when few examples of such figures were known, Glueck described this standing figure as a “lamp goddess” (1970:91).

75 Also of interest is the fact that Harding’s first figurine holds a disc in both hands at the waist.

76 These ears cannot be assigned to a known ceramic statue at Ḥorvat Qitmit, nor do the restored statues exhibit ears. On this basis, Beck (1995:114) suggests that the ears may have belonged to ceramic masks “of which no complete example survived”. It should also be noted that Statues 23 and 24 do not have locks of hair (Beck 1996: figs. 3.20; 3.23) as do the statues from ʿEn Ḥaṣeva and WT-13.

77 Mends with WT 65 (A2:/4), WT 73-1/573 (A2:2/7), WT 103-2/603 (A2:14/16), WT 253-3/753; WT 216-3/716 (A2:39/54), WT 336 (A2:53/87); registered sherds include A2.30.1, A5.1.2, A2.11.2.

78 Although this is still my best judgment, the horizontal flaps of clay may represent folded textiles or some other item intended for the shrine.

79 Shiloh did not present a detailed analysis of the pottery from Stratum 14, the find spot assigned to the attached fragment (G.5689) and the phase when the stepped stone structure was constructed. He did suggest a date in the 10th century BC, although the houses built above the stone structure contained late Iron II objects, especially the group of 51 bullae, dated to the late 7th–early 6th century (Shiloh 1984: figs. 24:1; 30.2). These objects correspond with the presence of holemouth jars in this stratum. This jar form is also present in the early phase of Stratum 12 (Shiloh 1984: figs. 22.2), a factor that may point to a somewhat later date for the construction of the stepped stone structure in Area G, but for the dating of the stepped stone structure in Iron IIA (cf. Steiner 2001:51–52).

80 Sedman (2002:376) mentions the fact that the largest of the statues from En Ḥaṣeva has very small breasts or large nipples (see Beck 1996: fig. 2).

81 Mends with WT82 (A2:2/4)

82 Several additional fragments belong to this same figure; WT 69 (A2:2/5) + 211 (A2:39/54), WT 91 (A2:9/14), WT 337 (A2:53/87). A group of registered sherds may also belong to WT 165; WT 13-A2.14.10; A2.55.16 + A4.9.22.

83 Fragments of the head of a male statue (WT 47-2/547) may be comparable, or even larger in size.

84 Mends with registered sherds WT 13-A2.1.20, A2.3.8, A2.21.11, A2.28.23.

85 Mends with WT 70 (A2:2.6), WT 149-2/649 (A2:7/24), WT 200-4/700 (A4:0.5/1).

86 The base is formed of registered sherds WT 13-A2.3.1, A2.21.15, A2.16.21, A2.50.3, A2.54.14, A2.79.1.

87 Mends with registered sherds WT 13-A2.6.6, A2.9.14, A2.35.18.

88 Mends with registered sherds WT 13-A2/20.9, A2/14.4.

89 Mends with WT 66 (A2:2/4).

90 In the same work, Kelso and Thorley described it as a figurine (Albright 1943:107).

91 A small hollow male head from Tel Maḥata may be another example of a statue from the Negev (Beit-Arieh 2011: fig. 9; Kletter 2015: fig. 9:2).

92 The fragments were re-assembled by J. Ferguson in the Near

Eastern laboratory at the University of Toronto; personal observation with permission of D. C. Foran, Director, Tall Madaba Excavations.

93 That this is not a representation of the navel can be assumed given that none of the female figures have this protrusion.

94 A second fragment (TJ 1713) is a sherd with relief which may also be from a ceramic statue (Daviau 2002, database).

95 This number does include base sections that are each distinct from one another and from the partially restored statues, but does not include the three bodies recovered amidst the sherd material (WT 220, 275, 376). The total number of fragments is 66.

96 As of 2015, the total number of published anthropomorphic figures from Transjordan by my count is 197 figurines and 30 statues.

97 For additional examples from Moab and the eastern Mediterranean, see Daviau (2001c).

98 This was not my initial judgement (Daviau 2001c:324) which was based on a much smaller corpus.

99 Cornelius 2004: pls. 5.1–5.20) also illustrates the reliefs which depict Qedeset as a naked goddess standing on a lion.

100 The position of the hands was the second determining characteristic in the classification of the figurines from ʿAin Dara (Abu ʿAssaf 1996).

101 On Cyprus, the naked female figurine continues in the iconography through the Cypro-Archaic period (ca. 600–480 BC) into the Cypro-Classical period (ca. 480–310 BC). Examples from these periods include a figurine from Amathus and a row of four naked females in relief on a sarcophagus from Amathus (Karageorghis 2000: figs. 216, 330).

102 Figurines from the sanctuary at Akhna that depict an elaborately dressed female holding her breasts date to the Classical period (Karageorghis 1999:49; pls. xi:9–xviii:4). This same tradition is represented at ʿAin Dara in Syria (Abū ʿAssāf 1996); see also Riis (1948/1949).

103 Several such figurines without provenience are excellent examples of the type (Meyers 1987: pl. 7A; 1991:20). Meyers (1987:121) cites numerous examples in museum collections and recent finds that were not yet published at the time of her article.

Typology of the small finds

P. M. Michèle Daviau

Introduction

The corpus of artefacts¹ recovered at WT-13 is a specialized assemblage that does not represent the full range of domestic, industrial, and economic objects recovered from town sites, such as Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002), Tall al-ʿUmayri (Herr and Platt 2002), Tawilan (Bienkowski 1995) and Busayra (Sedman 2002). The range of types at WT-13 is restricted to jewellery, including amulets and scarabs (see [Chapter 12](#) for beads); symbolic items such as architectural models and decorated items; high status stone vessels; crudely carved limestone bowls; a small number of ground stone tools and craft-related items; shells, fossils ([Chapters 10, 11](#)) and geological samples ([Table 5A](#)); textile tools; and miscellaneous items.² With such an assemblage, a full typological study is not possible, although it is important to establish a functional classification that contributes to our understanding of the role these objects played in the ritual acts carried out at this site, primarily during the shrine phase, Stratum II. Only nine objects can be assigned to the earlier Stratum III use of the site (see [Tables 3A, 3B](#); see also, Dolan 2007:157), while five objects appear to be Roman or Byzantine in date.³

This artefact analysis is based on an earlier and more comprehensive typology to classify and describe the finds from the Iron Age Ammonite site of Tall Jawa, a typology that is both functional and formal (Daviau 2002:20–22). The criteria established for each major class will be included, although there are some objects which defy classification due to their unique character.⁴ Since it is assumed that the majority of items found in the shrine phase were votive offerings or items used in cultic practices, whose precise characteristics remain tentative, we can only suggest rather general functional criteria. For example, we do not know whether jewellery functioned solely as personal adornment worn by the devotees or was part of the symbolic attire of the religious functionaries, divine figures, or votive statues. Alternately, the beads and shells could have been votive offerings.

Albertz and Schmitt (2012:60–74) recognized this dilemma and grouped into two categories the objects and pottery typically assigned to domestic cultic activities; Category A consists of those items which were without doubt used in the cult and Category B includes items without clear religious significance but which were often found in ritual contexts (Table 5B).⁵

With this in mind, this chapter includes a practical typology of the non-figurative objects and some figurative objects not included in Chapter 4. Rather than using the full sequence employed for recent studies of town site assemblages, the categories proposed in Table 5A will be followed, except for those objects studied in detail in other chapters. Measurements given in the catalogue, and in the online database, represent the most complete portion of an artefact. For unusual items, parallels from individual sites are listed where possible; for the more common finds, parallels are not exhaustive but summarized from the Tall Jawa typology (Daviau 2002) and from more recent studies.

I. ADORNMENT

I-A. Jewellery

I-A/1. Pendants

Bone pendants were not part of the repertoire of artefacts of personal adornment. Only the presence of holed shells, one stone pendant and two amulets indicates the use of this type of jewellery. Large shells may appear individually suggesting their use as pendants or with beads as part of a complex necklace.

I-A/1a. Shell pendants

I-A/1a-1. Glycymeris pendants

CATALOGUE

WT 238-4 (Fig. 10.1:2; A2:39/55). Single valve; L 2.2, W 1.8, T 0.8 cm; holed.

*Table 5A. Artefact types represented at WT-13 (in this chapter unless indicated)*¹

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
Jewellery+amulets	2	
Beads	61	Chapter 12
Shells	22	Chapter 10
Fossils	25	Chapters 10, 11
Scarab seals	2	
Anthropomorphic figurines	92	Chapter 4; includes fragments
Anthropomorphic statues	62	Chapter 4; includes fragments
Anthropomorphic statuettes	8	Chapter 4
Zoomorphic figurines + vessels	5	
Architectural models	11	includes fragments
Miniature furniture	3	
Altars	1	
Cosmetic objects	2	
High-status containers	2	
Scale weights	9	
Stone Containers and Basins	18	
Polishing/grinding stones	4	
Collectibles	43	shells and geological samples
Textile tools	23	
Ceramic fragments+decorations	69	
Miscellaneous	17	
Food preparation tools	15	
Registered vessels	17	
Roman-Byzantine period objects	4	Chapter 13
Registered ceramic sherds	4179	Chapters 3, 6, 7, 13

1 Not counting unregistered fragments and pebbles

Parallels

Transjordan: *Glycymeris*, holed at the umbo, are relatively common at Iron Age town sites, such as Tall as-Sa'idiya (Pritchard 1985: fig. 40), Tall Jawa (Reese 2002:277; Daviau 2002:27–29; fig. 2.2:1–4), Balu' (Worschech et al. 1986: pl. lxiv:2) and Tawilan (Reese 1995a:93).

I-A/1a-2. Murex pendants

Four murex shells are holed and may have served as pendants. In all instances, the holes were made naturally; WT 52, WT 60, WT 108, WT 152. For full description and reference to parallels, see [Chapters 10, 12](#).

Table 5B. Cultic and multifunctional objects identified in the domestic cult

Category	AB
Prehistoric (before 1000 B.C.)	- Collected fish (levelling, fossils, shells, stones, etc.) - Taraxacum and half figure pottery - Chalices and horse rider figurines - Small animal figurines - Terra cotta zoomorphic vessels - Terra cotta anthropomorphic vessels - Mosaic tile stoves - Models of furniture - Gaming pieces and astragali - Composite libation vessels - Tripod censer cups - Altars - Amulets and seals

I-A/1b. Stone pendants

I-A/1b-1. Small anchor-shaped pendants

Pendant WT 239-4/518 is a thin carnelian triangle with a flat base and a perforation through its apex from side to side. The triangular shape of this pendant does not fit exactly into any given type in the bead and pendant typology of Horace Beck ([Chapter 12](#)). The closest forms are his pyramid pendant (Group XXII.B.4.a)

and axe pendant (Group XXVIII.B.1.b).

CATALOGUE

WT 239-4/518 (Fig. 5.1:1; A2:39/55). Carnelian triangular pendant; dark red (2.5YR 3/6); L 15.1, W 3.2–8.9, T 5.0, int D 1.5 mm; intact.

Parallels

Tell el-Farḥah (N): Although perforated from front to back, the best parallel is a haematite pendant from the central room of Iron Age House 336 (Chambon 1984: pl. 73:10).

Timna: Associated with the Late Bronze–Iron Age shrine at the mining site of Timna is a fine example of a carnelian axe-shaped pendant, probably used as a bead in a necklace (Rothenberg 1972: pl. xii).

I-A/1c. Faience pendants

Two faience pendants representing powerful Egyptian deities and two scarabs functioned as both ornament and amulet. Each amulet is unique in its class at WT-13, with parallels from sites in Cisjordan and other regions of the Near East. The amulet of Horus-the-child (WT 162-2/662 (Fig. 5.1:2) is the most complete, with a suspension loop at the back of the neck. Both amulets could have functioned as adornments of a cultic functionary or visitor.

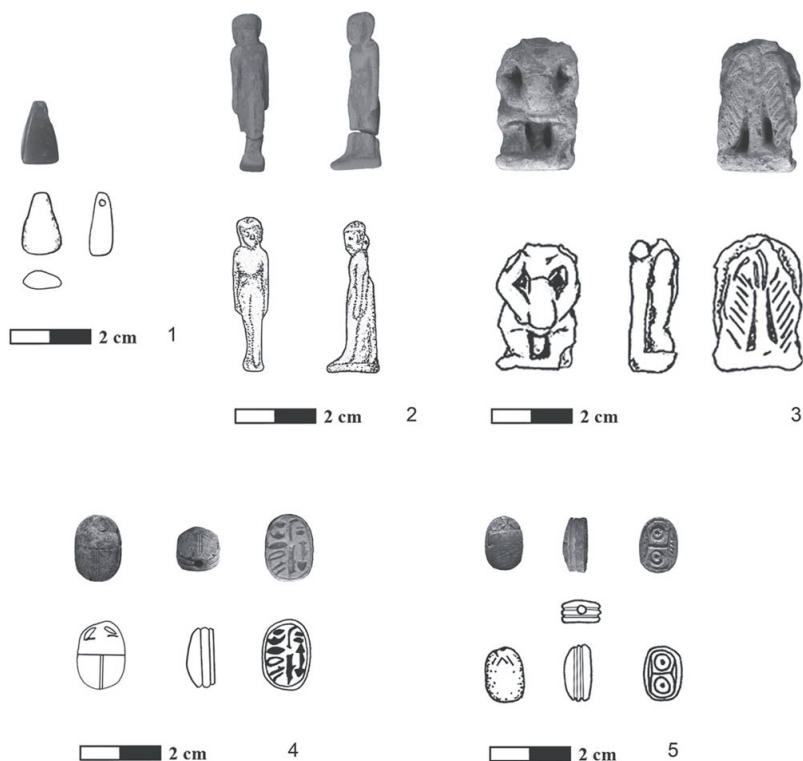


Figure 5.1. Adornments: 1) WT 239-4/518; 2) WT 162-2/662; 3) WT 303-5/502; 4) WT 256-4/504; 5) WT 22-1/522

I-A/1c-1. Horus-the-Child amulet

The most surprising find of the first season was a blue frit amulet of a standing male with his left foot forward, hands at his sides and a hair lock on the right side of his head. This figure is identified as Horus-the-Child (R. Leprohon, personal communication, September 1997).

CATALOGUE

WT 162-2/662 (Fig. 5.1:2; A2:6/10). Standing male; Blue frit(?); bright turquoise; H 4.3, W 1.1, T 0.8 cm; found in two pieces; Complete (Daviau 2015: fig. 1:1).

Description: This amulet is formed in the round, representing a striding young male. The frontal position of the body is in traditional Egyptian style with the left foot forward, the hands at the sides, and the forelock of youth. Although the proportions of the slender body are very natural in appearance, the details of the face and body are somewhat obscured, due to the small size and worn condition of this amulet.⁶ Only the hairline across the forehead and the thickening of the forelock can be seen clearly. The hole for suspension is located behind the head and neck area, and a plinth against the back begins at the waist and reaches to the feet. The figure is standing on a flat base that extends slightly beyond the feet on all sides and supports the base of the plinth.

Interpretation: This amulet is not unique in the Levant; it is one of a well-known class of Horus-the-Child amulets known from various sites. At the same time, this is the figure of a young child but not of an infant. Therefore, the stance is upright and elegant, similar to the style of adult figures. What is unusual is that this figure is shown with both hands at his sides, instead of having one finger of his right hand at his mouth, which is the more common position.

Levantine parallels

Sarepta: Among the hundreds of votive offerings in Shrine 1 at Sarepta, there were several Egyptian amulets, including one in faience that represents Horus-the-child. In this case, the child is shown with both hands at his sides and his knees slightly bent (Pritchard 1978:140; fig. 134; Doumet-Serhal 2008: fig. 95).

Ashkelon: Several examples of bronze figurines depict Horus-the-Child, beginning with one from the bronze hoard reported by Iliffe (1936: pl. xxix:3, 5, 6). Here too is an example of the child with hands at the sides, rather than with a finger in his mouth.

☪*Amman:* At Amman also, there is an example of a bronze amulet of Harpocrates, the child Horus (Hadidi 1974: pl. xxvii).

I-A/1c-2. Ptah-Sokar amulet

CATALOGUE

WT 303-5/502 (Fig. 5.1:3; A2:0.5/52). Double figure; Faience; green glaze (10Y 8/1, light greenish gray); H 3.1, W 2.0, T 1.4 cm; head missing; broken (Daviau 2015: fig. 1:2).

Description: The image on the front of this small amulet is that of a plump child with his arms bent and his hands on either side of his stomach. His legs are bowed and his sex is indicated, showing that the child is naked. Between his legs there is a support that shows through from the back. Although a plinth supporting standing figures is a common Egyptian feature,⁷ in this case it is the elongated body of a second figure modelled on the back. This figure stands in profile with both feet together and faces (→) the right arm of the amulet. In front of and behind this female figure are large wings, which reach from her shoulders to the feet. The wings are decorated with diagonal lines that angle down toward the body. The head of this figure is also missing, although there is a vertical rectangle marking the front side of the upper body that may be indicative of the identity of this figure.

Interpretation: A double sided image, probably a *Cippus* amulet, typically depicts Horus-the-Child or Ptah-sokar (*Pataikos*), or even the dwarf god Bes, on the front and a winged goddess on the back. With the head missing, it is difficult to determine the exact identity of the figure on the reverse, although she clearly represents a powerful protective deity (see parallels below). There is no sign that the male child on the front holds knives as do certain examples of Ptah-Sokar. Since the shoulders are in a natural position at the base of the neck, this amulet certainly represents Ptah, whereas in most depictions of Bes, the head is enlarged and the shoulders appear to spring from either side of the lower part of the face (McGovern 1985:20).⁸ This is seen clearly on several Late Bronze Age Bes amulets from Lachish (Murray 1953: pls. 34:12–14, 36:48; McGovern 1985:16).

Along with numerous small amulets of Ptah-Sokar from sites in the Eastern Mediterranean, there are also a number of figurines. Closest to WT-13 is the site of Tall al-ʿUmayri, where a figurine (5.5 cm in preserved height) was recovered in pieces (Dabrowski 1993; 2000:215, 217; fig. 9.1, 2). This figure is classified by Dabrowski as belonging to a group of *Pataikos* figurines and amulets which have a scarab on the head, a feature which cannot be confirmed in regard to WT 303-5/502. The Ptah figurine from Bethsaida preserves the major characteristics of the *Pataikos* iconography, the round-limbed child holding a knife in each hand and wearing a beaded necklace (Arav and Bernett 1997: fig. 3). Arav and Freund (1999:93) cite as parallels the 184 *Pataikos* figurines which are known from excavations in Israel. More recently, an elaborate *Pataikos* amulet was recovered in Temple 650 at Tel Miqne-Ekron dated to the 7th century (Gitin 2005:51).

Egyptian parallels

Cippus amulets: Examples of amulets with Horus-the-Child on the front are shown with a protective goddess standing in profile behind the legs of the front figure (Andrews 1994: figs. 34–35). The goddess is sometimes lion-headed (Sekhmet or Bastet), or represents Isis/Maat.⁹

Thomas Shaw Collection: Among the artefacts illustrated in the published *Travels or Observations relating to several Parts of Barbary and the Levant* of Thomas Shaw (1738) is an example of a faience Ptah-Pataikos now in the Bodleian Collection at the Ashmolean Museum (Whitehouse 2002:242; fig. 1(d)). In this drawing, the female goddess has a horned sun disk on her head.

Cypriot parallels

Amathus: Among the 184 amulets and tiny figurines from the Phoenician necropolis are a number of Ptah amulets. The best parallels are more elaborate than WT 303-5/502 and they do have

a completely preserved image of winged Isis on the back (→), thus providing evidence for the rich iconography of such amulets (Tomb 225/45, Tomb 296/1, Clerc 1991:62–63, 83–84).

Kition: Additional examples are found among the figurines from Kition (Clerc *et al.* 1976: figs. 26–27).

Levantine parallels showing Egyptian influence

Tell Qarqur: A small headless faience amulet, identified as Bes and assigned to an Iron Age I context (Dornemann 2003: fig. 91), shares many features with WT 303-5/502 and may in fact be Ptah.

Tyre: A small (H 1.20 cm), intact faience amulet of a deity as a plump child comes from a Late Bronze Age IIA locus at Tyre. A small, partly damaged amulet and a second, larger (H 6.2 cm) pendant, also in faience, both date to Iron Age II (Bikai 1978: pl. lxxxv:1, 13).

Akhziv: At least seven Ptah amulets were identified among the finds from the tombs of the er-Ras cemetery (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: figs. 4.21:69, 70; 4.27:110–112; see note 5 above).

Megiddo: Several faience amulets of Ptah-Sokar were present in loci assigned to Strata VB and VA (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 74:11–14, 16–18; Loud 1948: pl. 206:48, 50, 52–55); only one of these appears to depict the child with a scarab on his head (a717). That this amulet type already had a history at Megiddo is seen in the six Ptah-Sokar amulets which were present in the Stratum VI Iron I corpus (Paice 2004:68–69; pl. 26:4–9).

Lachish: Two good examples of the child Ptah-Sokar are complete and show clearly the scarab on his head and the knives in his hands (Murray 1953: pl. 34:11; 36:49). A third Ptah amulet was recovered from House 100 to the northwest of the Fosse temples (Tufnell *et al.* 1940:43; pl. xxi:51). Six Ptah amulets were present in 19th and 20th Dyn. tombs (Tufnell 1958: pl. 29: 52, 54, 55, 62,

65). While these amulets depict only one deity, another Iron Age amulet (Murray 1953: pl. 35:44) has a “plinth” behind the figure,¹⁰ a feature replaced by the presence of the winged goddess on amulet WT 303-5/502. Murray’s survey of amulets in Palestine during the Iron Age (9th–8th centuries) demonstrates that amulets of Delta deities were the most popular at Lachish. Clearly, the importance of these amulets also carried over into Transjordan.

Mediterranean parallels

Carthage: The value of an amulet of Ptah-Sokar is seen as late as the 4th century BC, when it was included with one scarab depicting Maat along with a hawk amulet in a burial urn from the Tophet cemetery (Stager and Wolff 1984:45).

I-A/2. Beads

A variety of bead shapes and sizes are represented in the bead corpus. Carnelian is the most common stone, although beads made of other stones are also present along with a small number of faience, glass, silver, gold ([Chapter 12](#)) and shell beads ([Chapters 10 and 12](#)).¹¹

I-A/3. Stamp Seals

I-A/3a. Scarabs with hieroglyphic inscription

True scarabs and scaraboid seals are few at WT-13. Given the nature of the site, this is not unexpected. The fact that there are two examples of this style of stamp seal, one inscribed with hieroglyphs, is helpful both for dating and for determining something about the visitors to the site.

CATALOGUE

WT 256-4/504 (Fig. 5.1:4; A4:7/10). Steatite scarab; L 1.5, W 1.2, T 0.7; holed (see, Eggler and Keel 2006:486; WT-13 No. 2: Daviau 2015: fig. 1:5).

Parallels

WT-256-4/504 appears to be the only known scarab from Transjordan with the name of  Ahmes-Nefertari, identified here as “god’s wife”, meaning the wife of Ahmose I and mother of Amenhotep I. According to Gestoso Singer (2011), she was venerated in Thebes at least since the 19th Dynasty¹² when she and her son became the titular deities of the Theban necropolis. Her scarabs continued to be produced into the Third Intermediate period (Eggler and Keel 2006:486, *editio princeps*).

I-A/3b. Hyksos Scarabs

CATALOGUE

WT 22-1/522 (Fig. 5.1:5; WT-13:0.5/16). Steatite;¹³ L 1.39, W 0.95, T 0.6 cm; holed (see, Eggler and Keel 2006:486; WT-13 Nr. 1; Daviau 2015: fig. 1:6).

Discussion

This scaraboid has a simple decoration separated in two registers consisting of two ring-and-dot designs. It has been identified as a locally made Hyksos scarab, and like the Anra scarab found at Mudayna Thamad in Building 400 (McQuinn 2006:265–267), is out of context in its present setting.

II. ARTISTIC AND ICONOGRAPHIC OBJECTS

II-A. Figurative objects

II-A/1. Anthropomorphic Figures and Statues

Due to the large number of male and female figurines and statues at WT-13, these are studied separately (see [Chapter 4](#)).

II-B/1. Zoomorphic figures

II-B/1a. Figurines

The small number of fragments from Site WT-13 that can be

identified as zoomorphic is quite surprising, given the much larger number of bull, horse, lion and bird figures identified at Ḥorvat Qitmit, with smaller numbers at En Ḥaṣeva (Daviau 2012) and at Atarus (Ji 2012). While there is only a small number of zoomorphic figurine fragments and one limestone altar in the assemblage at WT-13, horse figurines (Daviau and Zeran 2017) and limestone altars (Daviau 2007; 2014a) are dominant in the cultic repertoire at Mudayna Thamad. Also by way of contrast, the identity of the intended animal cannot be ascertained for either of the WT-13 fragments, although WT 269-4/506 most closely resembles a bird.

CATALOGUE

WT 269-4/506 (Fig. 5.2:1; A5:5/14). Figurine head; pale yellow exterior (2.5Y 7/4), pink interior (5YR 7/4); L 6.4, W 4.4, neck D 3.0, int D 1.6 cm; broken.

Parallels

Ḥorvat Qitmit: A number of partially preserved ostrich figurines were identified among the animal figurines at the site (Beck 1995:150–151; fig. 3.95:155–159).

Better known in Moab are figurines of quadrupeds that make it possible to identify one such broken figurine at WT-13.

WT 522-6 (Fig. 5.2:2; A5:17/47). Quadruped rear quarters; L 5.3, W 3.6, H 3.8; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior; broken.

Parallels

Tel Ira: Several fragments are sufficiently well preserved to show the body, rear quarters and tail of a quadruped, probably an equid (Kletter 1999: fig. 7.3:4, 6).

II-B/1b. Zoomorphic figurine fragments

A number of small ceramic feet, usually conical in shape, cannot be properly assigned to a particular object and may come from either a figurine or a tripod cup. Those feet and legs with a slight curvature on one side of these nearly conical legs are more likely to belong to a figurine than to a cup. Two examples (WT 79-2/579; A3/4.11) with a flat bottom are nearly cylindrical, closer in style to feet on zoomorphic vessels (see below).

II-B/1b-1. Possible zoomorphic figurine legs

CATALOGUE

WT 8-1/511 (Fig. 5.2:3). Roughly cylindrical fragment (leg?); L 4.3, W 2.6, T 2.4 cm; ceramic; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

WT 79-2/579 (Fig. 5.2:4; A2:2/4). Ceramic stump foot; H 3.6, D 2.3–2.9 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4); broken.

II-B/2. Zoomorphic statuette fragments

One stone foot/paw may represent a zoomorphic fragment, since it cannot be assigned to any of the known anthropomorphic statuettes described above.

CATALOGUE

WT 266 (Fig. 5.2:5; A2:40/67). Foot + leg; L 5/8, W 3/8, H 2.1 cm; limestone; fragment.

Description: The base of the foot is relatively flat and extends horizontally beyond the heel in the shape of a leg. At this point it is broken, making it difficult to determine if the figure was a crouching animal. The foot itself has eight toes and is shattered on its upper surface.

II-B/3. Zoomorphic vessels

It is most likely that the fragment registered as WT 31-1/531 does not belong to one of the anthropomorphic figures since the

curvature of the body is horizontal rather than vertical. The largest fragment of this object is that of a foot and part of the lower body, which was formed like a cylindrical vessel and then turned horizontally on its side before the foot was attached. A good example of this kind of vessel, at least of its rear end, is seen in a dog (?) vessel from Nuzi (Starr 1930:15), which dates to the second millennium. Clearly, there is no cultural continuity; what is of value for understanding the WT-13 foot is its shape, the short thick leg, and the method of attachment to the body which is similar to that of the Nuzi vessel.

CATALOGUE

WT 31-1/531 (Fig. 5.2:6; WT-13:0.5/15). Zoomorphic vessel, foot and body fragment; body D *ca.* 15 cm; pale yellow exterior (2.5Y 8/2), light gray (10YR 7/2); fragment.

A ceramic zoomorphic statue from central Jordan that can contribute to a better understanding of this object is the bull statue from  Atarus (Ji 2012: pl. 46). Both the statue and the WT-13 fragment were formed as a cylindrical vessel turned on its side to which separately formed legs were attached. Unfortunately, the identity of WT 31-1/531 remains uncertain.

III. DECORATIVE CULTIC FURNISHINGS

Apart from the anthropomorphic figurines and statues, the largest single class of furnishing is that of ceramic architectural models. These models appear in several different forms at WT-13, although only a handful of examples are known from town sites. Their presence at WT-13 is in contrast to Temple 149 at Mudayna Thamad (Daviau and Steiner 2000), where they were not represented in the material culture.

III-A. Architectural models

The discovery at Site WT-13 of four partially preserved objects

which fall into the basic class of architectural model provides limited evidence for a classification system that will allow us to distinguish their individual features and assign each one to its proper type or sub-type. Comparable models are also found on Cyprus and at Phoenician sites that Gubel (1987:135) considers to be the centre for their inspiration, at least during the Iron Age.¹⁴

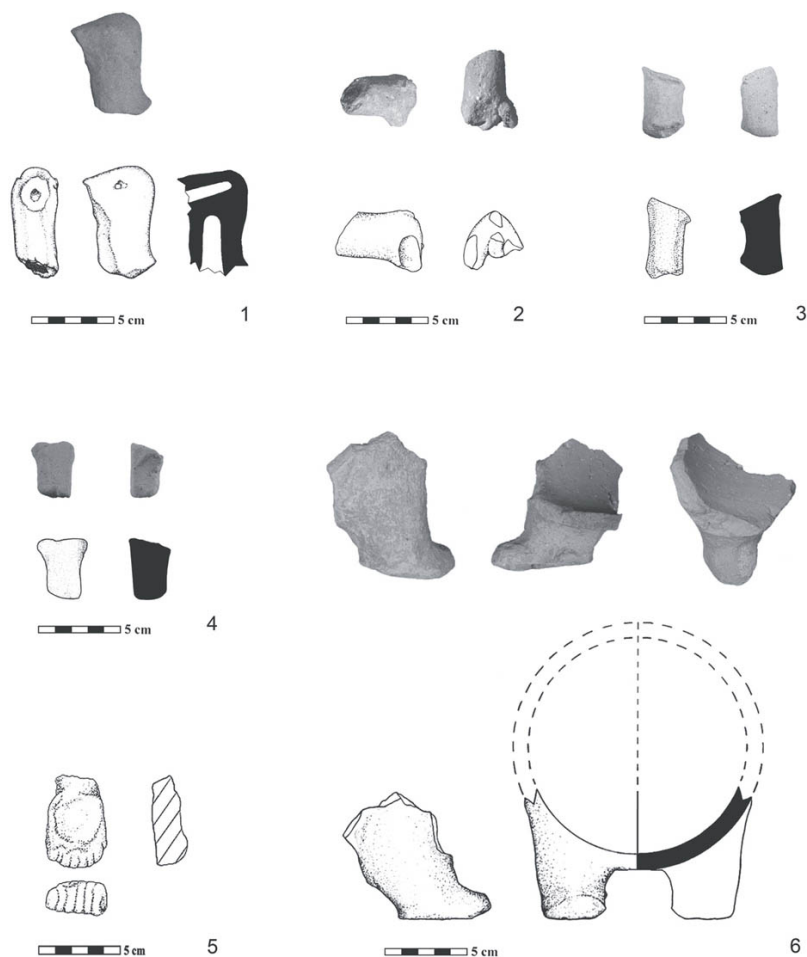


Figure 5.2. Zoomorphic figurines and vessel: 1) WT 269-4/506; 2) WT 522-6; 3) WT 8-1/511; 4) WT 79-2/579; 5) WT 266; 6) WT 31-1/531

III-A/1. Fenestrated architectural models

III-A/1a-1. Two-storey Fenestrated Architectural Models

Several different types of architectural models are represented in the sherd material, with the most easily recognized style being that of a fenestrated model with two stories of windows and painted decoration.

CATALOGUE

WT 9-1/509 (Fig. 5.3:1, 2; A2:7/17). H 46.6, W 27.0, Dpt 31.5;¹⁵ light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) paint; several groups of mendable sherds (Daviau 2008:295–296; fig. 3).

Description and technology: The sherd material of model WT 9-1/509 can only be partially reconstructed. These sherds (1.2 cm thick), forming parts of three sides and fragments of the fourth, represent a two-storey architectural model with painted decoration and windows of various sizes. Fragments of the roof with its parapet and one corner of the base are also preserved. This model was hand-made and the windows were cut prior to firing, resulting in a small ridge of clay on the interior around the openings. The windows themselves vary in size, with rectangular windows (ca. 8.0 cm in length × 5.5 cm in width) flanked on either side by an equally long but narrow window (W 3.0 cm). Although there is not one completely preserved window, there is sufficient evidence to show that on one level there were two or more medium-size windows, each positioned below an upper section of wall with a medium-size window flanked of either side by a narrow one. Residue of the painted decoration, consisting of horizontal and vertical stripes (ca. 0.7 cm thick) crossing at intervals between the windows, is evident on certain sherds.

The corners do not form right angles; instead, they are gently rounded. In one case, the corner on the exterior is squared by the addition of extra clay. Evidently, the model was made in pieces; one side with both the lower and upper storey in a single piece was attached to another wall fragment once the clay had started to

dry. The evidence for this is the extra smoothing preserved on the interior surface near the corners.

At the level of the roof, there is a protruding ridge on the exterior while the parapet extends upward over the side wall. A small section of the roof is preserved suggesting that this model was completely covered. The flattened lower edge of the model is crudely formed and the large sherds of the lower wall make it clear that there was no floor.¹⁶ The only plastic decoration consists of a crudely made human(?) face attached on one of the corners (Fig. 5.3:2).

Parallels: Although there are no exact parallels to model WT 9-1/509, several features may be an echo of elements known from models found at Middle and Late Bronze Age sites in Syria. For example, the narrow, elongated windows are also found on a model in the Louvre (Margueron 1985: figs. 1, 2).¹⁷ Another feature, namely the painted stripes, may reflect a feature that appears on Syrian models in a different medium. For example, several models from the area of the Tabqa dam, some without precise provenience, are unpainted but have an applied rope decoration that runs between the windows (Muller 1995: fig. 6; Masuda 1983: pl. iv).¹⁸

III-A/1b. Single-storey fenestrated architectural models

CATALOGUE

WT 100-2/600 (Fig. 5.4:1; A2:7/24). H 12.0, W 17.0+ cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric; two groups of mendable sherds.¹⁹

Description and technology: WT 100-2/600 is a hand-made model, irregular in shape and thick walled (ca. 1.8 cm). The forming techniques of this model differ from those of Model WT 9-1/509, where the windows were cut into the leather-hard clay. Each window in Model WT 100-2/600 appears to have been formed by hand while the clay was wet with the result that the windows

retain lumps of clay that deform their opening. On certain sherds, there are also protrusions where protomes or knobs were broken off. Based on its fabric, anthropomorphic figure WT-179 (Fig. 4.3:7) may have been part of this same model.

III-A/2. Isolated anthropomorphic attachments

Other fragments, discussed above as protomes ([Chapter 4](#)), which could have been attached to an architectural model appear to be anthropomorphic in form (WT 104-2/604, Fig. 4.3:5; WT 80-2/580, Figs. 4.3:6; 5.4:2). Another fragment made of a different fabric (WT 153-2/653) comes from another type of fenestrated object (Fig. 5.4:3).

CATALOGUE

WT 153-2/653 (Fig. 5.4:3; A2:0.5/43). H 6.0, W 5.7, T 2.2 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6) slip; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) paint; isolated sherd with two windows.

Description

Fragment WT 153-2/653, not related to WT-9-1/509, retains portions of at least two windows, providing evidence for additional fenestrated models at WT-13.

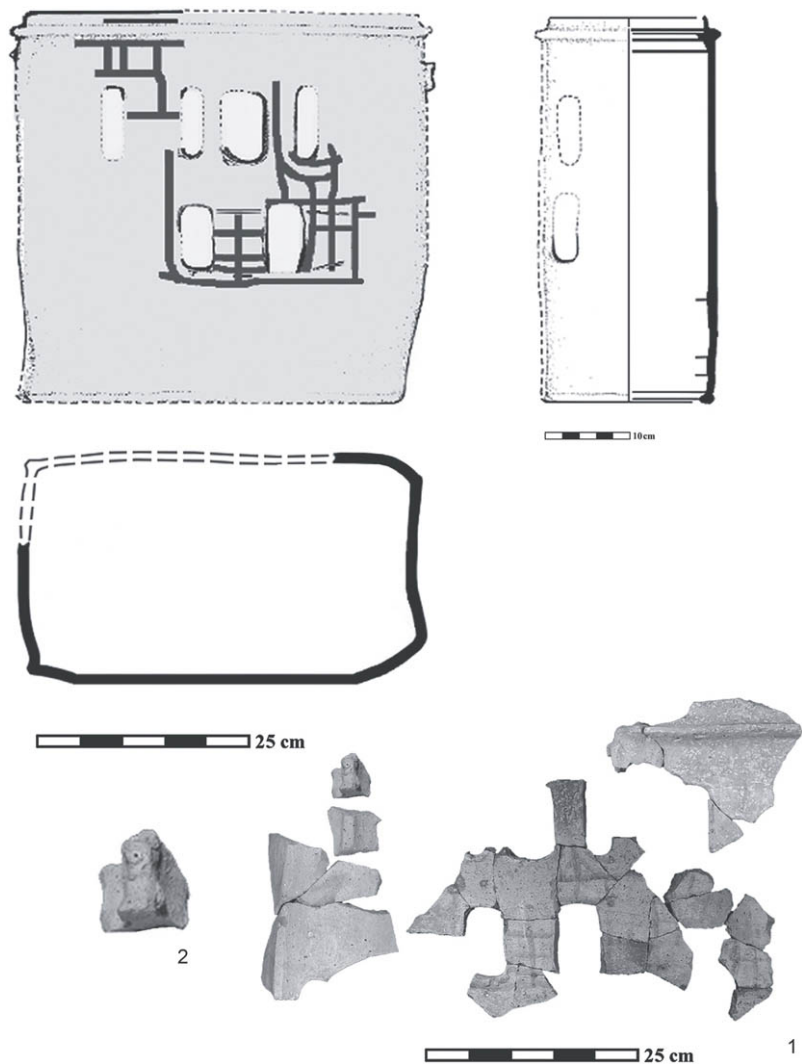


Figure 5.3. Architectural model: 1) WT 9-1/509; 2) detail of attachment

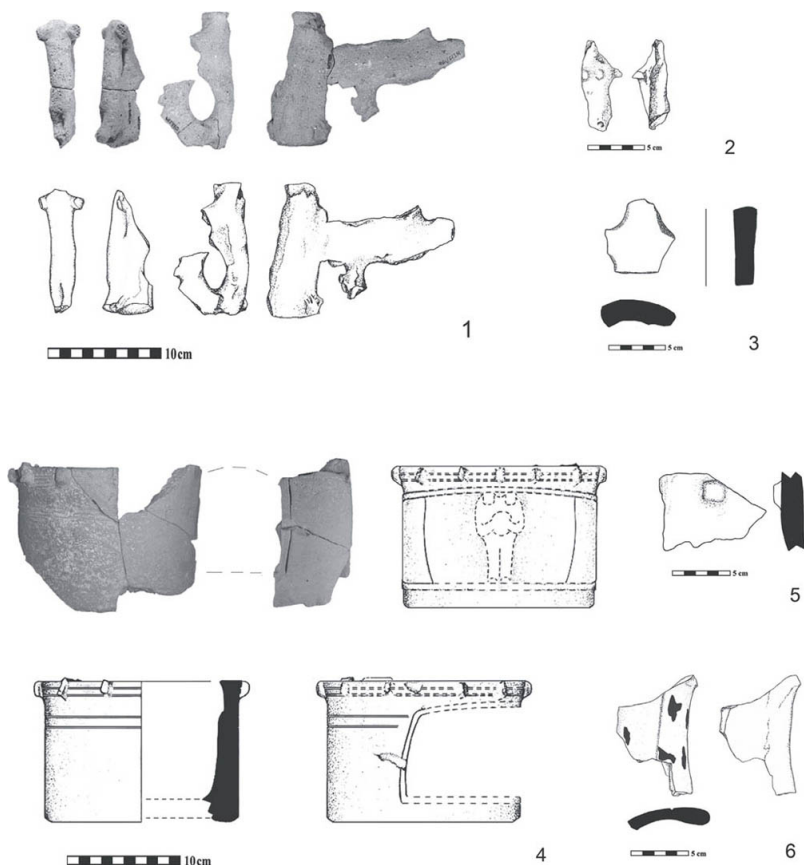


Figure 5.4. Decorative cultic furnishings: fenestrated model, 1) WT 100-2/600 (+ 179); attachments and fragments, 2) WT 80, 3) WT 153; niche model, 4) WT 437-2; roof beam and wall fragment, 5) WT 339; doorway fragment, 6) WT 470-6

III-B Heading missing

III-B/1. Round architectural models or naiskoi

A second style is that of a round house with only one doorway and no windows. There is only one example of this type and some fragments of a second model that appears to fall into this same class.[20](#)

CATALOGUE

WT 437-2 (Fig. 5.4:4; A2/7.1). D 19.0, H 12.8 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric; three mendable sherds.

Description and technology: Sherds that reach from the base to the roof line provide evidence for the full height of this room with its single doorway. There are knobs at intervals that mark the level of the roof beams, although there was no evidence on the interior of the roof itself. One pair of horizontal incised lines runs around the upper part of the model underneath the knobs; a second pair is incised lower down on the wall at the level of the top of the doorway. On the inside opposite the opening is a shadow surrounded by a lip of clay in the shape of a figurine. Unfortunately, no figurine recovered at the site fits into this space (Daviau 2008:298).

The round wall was made of a slab of clay that was folded to create this thick-walled (ca. 1.9–2.8 cm) model. In contrast to the fenestrated model (WT 9-1/509), this round house may have had a floor, although only a small section is preserved that shows the change of direction at the base. The doorway was cut before firing leaving an edge of clay on the interior; on the exterior an incised line runs around the opening.

Parallels: Various Late Bronze Age rectangular models have features comparable to *naos* model WT 437-2, such as the cylindrical knobs that represent protruding roof beams (Muller 1995:366; fig. 7). Unfortunately, the other known round house models are quite different in that they have interior divider walls that are not represented in this WT-13 model.

III-B/2. Square models

Also well-known from Late Bronze and Iron Age sites is a one room *naiskos*, sometimes called a niche or hutch model (Muller 1997:258–259), which may have contained the image of a deity (Caubet 1979: pls. viii:3, 4; ix:1). These are typically small models

that come in a variety of shapes, usually square or beehive shaped.²¹ These are typically decorated with attached columns (Caubet 1979: pl. viii:5; Karageorghis 1987: pl. xxvii:130; Weinberg 1978: fig. 15), attached figurines (May 1935; pl. xiii; Seeden 1979: pls. iii–iv), or pellets (Czichon *et al.* 1989: fig. 10; Karageorghis 1987: pl. xxvii:131). Although no complete examples of this type are represented in the ceramic material from WT-13, several attached female figures (discussed in [Chapter 4](#)), a wall fragment (WT 399-5) and a fragment of a façade (WT 89-2/589) indicate the presence of this type. Another fragment (WT 470) forms one side of a doorway. Covered with slip or paint, this sherd suggests a curved model, but this suggestion remains tentative.

CATALOGUE

WT 339-5 (Fig. 5.4:5; A10:0.5/5). Wall sherd; H 5.3, W 7.2, T 2.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3); thick sherd with square knob.

WT 88-2/588 + WT 89-2/589 (Fig. 4.3:4; A2:6/10). Façade with figurine attached; H 9.6, W 8.2, T 1.8 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, dark gray (N4/) core; broken.

WT 470 (Fig. 5.4:6; A9:1/4). Doorway; H 10.1, T 1.7 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) paint.

Description and technology: Sherd WT 339-5 is assigned to the class of architectural models on the basis of the thickness of the sherd and the square knob attached to the exterior. This square protuberance is similar in its position on the sherd to the roof beam features of model WT 437-2. Façade fragment WT 89-22/589 consists of a flat sherd with two finished edges that suggest its function as a *fronton* with attached figures. Only one naked female figurine (WT 88-2/588) is preserved, although the scar for a second figure appears to her left (see [Chapter 4](#)).

Parallels: Although there are no exact parallels to WT 88-2/588 + 89-2/589, three ceramic *fronton* fragments, a ceramic

column and a miniature ceramic proto-Aeolic capital (TJ 218; Daviau 2002:2.43:1; 2014a: fig. 3:3–5), which may have been attached to a façade, were found in a domestic and industrial quarter at Tall Jawa that yielded a variety of cultic artefacts. The small shrine containing the image of a deity was a widespread feature of Iron Age religious iconography. In Egyptian statuary, the “*naos* holder” begins to appear in the 19th dynasty and increases in popularity during the Late Period, extending down into the 4th century BC, for example, the statue of Psamtechsaneith from Mit Rahina (CG 726 = JE 31335; Russmann 1999:368).

III-B/3. Niche models

The niche model from WT-13 differs from the *naiskoi* described above (Type II-B/1). It is tiny and is open on one side. This particular example is supported on short legs, has remnants of painted decoration, and has small attached paws or hands hanging from the floor. Such features are usually associated with large tower models (Frank *et al.* 1982: fig. 39; Margueron 1976: pl. liii:2; Muller 2001:337; fig. 8, 9), where they are understood to be decorated elements derived from the depiction of the ends of wooden posts that supported floors and ceilings (Callot 2001). They may also have been influenced by the use of “hands of Ištar”, an inscribed element in the shape of a fist inserted into the walls of 9th century BC temples and palaces in Assyria (Black and Green 1992:102; Muller 2001: fig. 10).

CATALOGUE

WT 16-1/516 (Fig. 5.5:1; WT-13:0.5/15). H 9.5, W 8.5, Dpt *ca.* 7.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) paint; partially restored.

Description and technology: Miniature in size, this model was hand-made in several pieces. The base is a flat slab of clay (*ca.* 1.1 cm thick), slightly irregular in shape, with four short feet attached at

the rounded corners, and two small striated pellets hanging from the front edge. The U-shaped wall appears to have been made in two parts; the larger piece constitutes the right side and the back. Two slabs of clay were folded to form a thick wall which was gently bent to fit onto the base. The left wall was formed separately, but in a similar manner, and was attached to the base, where it left a scar when the model broke.²² Faint bands of paint on the back and right side are all that remains of the decoration. Although the left side is chipped at the top, it appears that the niche was unroofed. This interpretation is strengthened by the presence of a small socket-shaped depression in the top of the right wall, where an object could have been supported. What that object was remains unclear due to the small size of the model itself.

Additional striated protuberances found loose in the debris, such as WT 29 (Fig. 5.5:2) and WT 284 (Fig. 5.5:3), are more likely to have been associated with architectural models than with figurines. The meaning of these small attachments is disputed, although they are also found on tall fenestrated stands and tower models from Emar, Tell Fray and Mumbaqa (Muller 2002: fig. 60, 88, 117, 118). Muller (2002:97–98) suggests that they serve both as an architectural element representing the end of a roof beam and have the appearance of a hand. Less likely is the opinion of Dever (2006:475–475) who identified them as “iconographic ‘body parts’” that represent the presence of the deity. One must note that in Syria and Jordan during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, the full depiction of the deity, rather than obscure body parts, was part of the tradition.

Parallels

This unique model has only one feature that is found on models of other shapes and sizes, namely the small incised attachments that look like hands/paws.

Emar: Small grooved attachments are found on tower models and single and double storey architectural models from the Middle Euphrates region (Muller 2002:262; figs. 55, 57, 60).

Beth Shean: A single row of small incised attachments is preserved on the shoulder of a cylindrical stand (Rowe 1940: pl. lviii:1–3).

III-C. Attachments

III-C/1. Attached serpents in relief

Serpent motif

The serpent motif usually appears as an applied ceramic relief with speckled depressions sealed onto the outer surface of a cultic stand or vessel.²³ This is seen on architectural models from Mesopotamia where serpents are coiled on the floor of a box model in front of a staircase that may have led to a platform and the image of a deity (Mundkur 1983: fig. 87) as well as on the exterior (Weygand 2001: figs. 4b, 8b). In the Levant, the serpent motif appears as early as the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, as well as in Early Bronze Age I on a vessel from a domestic context at Jabal al-Muṭawwaq, Jordan (Fernández-Tresguerres Valasco 2008: fig. 2). In Palestine, the motif is continuous from the Middle Bronze Age into the Iron Age. Good examples of Middle Bronze Age vessels with an attached serpent are the Megiddo jug (Loud 1948: pl. 32:3) and a small jug without secure provenience (Ben-Tor 1992: pl. 25), along with sherds with serpents in relief from the Orthostat Temple in Area H at Hazor (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. cclx:24). Several examples of serpents in relief on models and stands were noted by Rowe²⁴ in his excavations of temples at Beth Shean. At Dhibân, a fenestrated ceramic stand was decorated with a painted band and an applied serpent (Morton 1989:245; fig. 14). In another medium, a serpent appears incised on a storejar from Chamber Tomb 5 at Ashkelon (Barako 2008: fig. 21.1).

At WT-13, seven rope-like ceramic fragments of serpent bodies in relief are gently curved. The outer surface is covered

with impressed dots, while the base is flat indicating that these reliefs had been attached to a large, fairly flat object. A seventh fragment with random depressions is flat and appears to be the window frame of a model (WT 443), while another (WT 504) is attached to a curved sherd that may have been part of a conical stand.

CATALOGUE

WT 427-4 (Fig. 5.5:4); WT 25-1/525 (Fig. 5.5:5); WT 231-4 (Fig. 5.5:6), WT 426-4 (Fig. 5.5:7); WT 425-4 (Fig. 5.5:8); WT 428-4 (not shown); WT 504 (Fig. 5.5:9); seven fragments; width of serpent *ca.* 1–2 cm, length variable.²⁵

Parallels

Although the item to which the fragments were attached has not been identified, four serpent reliefs still adhered to sherds of the original object. None of the WT-13 serpent fragments appears to have been attached to the architectural models recovered during excavation and no stands were recognized in the ceramic assemblage. There are, however, numerous parallels to the winding serpent on ceramic models and stands from sites in Mesopotamia, Syria, Cisjordan and Crete.

Mesopotamia/Diyala: Early instances of this motif occur either inside or on the exterior of snake houses. Best known are those examples from the Early Dynastic III period at sites in the Diyala. Although without secure provenience, these snake house models, now in the Yale Babylonian Collection and in the Amsterdam Museum (Muller 2002: figs. 160, 161, 164), are examples of the cultic importance of the serpent.²⁶

Aššur: Already in the Early/Middle Bronze Age transition, this motif appears on the exterior walls of house (or temple) models from the Ištar Temple (Andrae 1922: pl. 17). The association of

serpents with doves on one of these models is interpreted by Mundkur (1983:191–193) as a symbol of fertility.

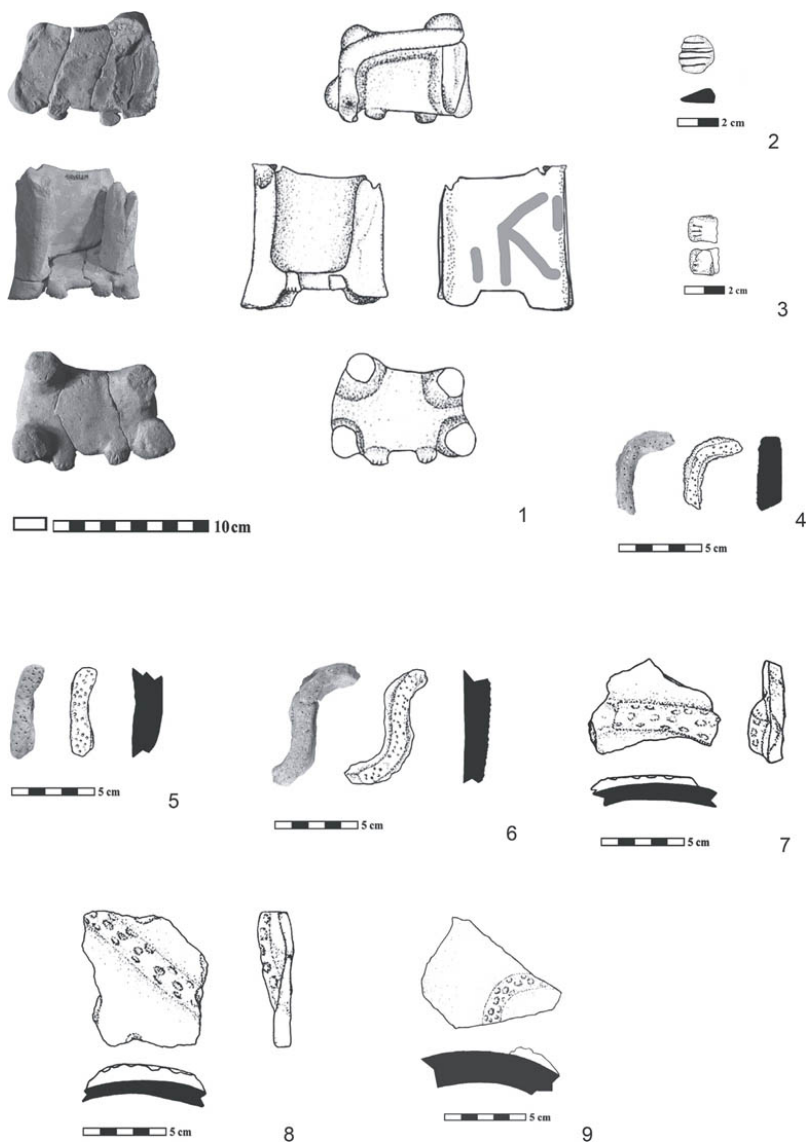


Figure 5.5. Models and attachments: niche model, 1) WT 16; attached protuberance, 2) WT 29; 3) WT 284; serpent attachments, 4) WT 427-4; 5) WT 25-1/525; 6) WT 231-4; 7) WT 426-4; 8) WT 425-4; 9) WT 504

Tell Shiyukh Tahtani: A model fragment from the Upper Euphrates region preserves two winding serpents in relief (Falsone 1998: fig. 10).

Hazor: Serpents in relief are found on a number of artefacts and vessels from both the Bronze and Iron Ages; one example is an unstratified vessel assigned to the Middle Bronze Age II (Yadin *et al.* 1961 pl. cxcvi:13).

Beth Shan: The largest single group of applied serpents is found on artefacts from the temples at Beth Shan (Rowe 1940: pls. xiv:1, 4, 5; xxvi:1, 2, 3, 8, 9; xvii:1, 2, 3; xix:8; xx:2; Frevel 2003: figs. 12–15).

Bethel: Serpent bodies in relief make their appearance on a jug handle and on the body of a jar (Kelso 1968: pl. 119).

Jericho: On occasion, the serpent motif is associated with bird imagery, such as the bird vessel from Jericho (Tushingham 1952: fig. 7).

Dhibân: A cylindrical ceramic stand, which appears to have a serpent in relief winding its body between the windows, led Morton to assume that the structure he was digging was a temple (Morton 1989: fig. 14).²⁷

Gournia: The use of the serpent motif is not restricted to the Semitic world. Two stands from Late Minoan III at Gournia were decorated with horns of consecration and serpents (Betancourt 1985:159: pl. 32:A, B).

Bronze/copper serpents, some with gold foil covering the head, were also present at certain cultic sites, such as Timna (Rothenberg 1972: pl. xix), Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: pl. 31:1)²⁸ and later at Mount Gerizim (Magen 2010:32).

III-C/2. Other attachments

Less well understood are a number of flat sherds with attached fragments that may come from architectural models, although in themselves they cannot be identified; curved fragments are more likely to belong to statues. Other fragments appear as attachments but are rounded, possibly columnar.

CATALOGUE

Flat sherds with attachments; WT 7; WT 74. WT 202; columnar fragments; WT 203.

III-D. Model furniture

Two pieces of model furniture were recovered, a miniature table and a throne, along with two mystery items in the same size range, described here as “tables with bread loaves”.

III-D/1. Model tables

III-D/1a. Simple model table

The small ceramic table is red slipped, has a square top, and is supported on four peg feet, of which two are missing. The top surface is marred by a ridge of clay which may be the result of forming techniques or residue of an attached object now missing.

CATALOGUE

WT 267-4 (Fig. 5.6:1; A4:5/9). Miniature table; L 5.4, W 5.3, H 3.3 cm; reddish yellow (5.YR 6/6); broken.

Parallels

Amathus: A three-legged model table is rectangular in shape, and painted with a floral motif on its legs (Karageorghis 1987: pl. xxviii:132).

Gezer: Dating to the Middle Bronze Age, and made of steatite, a

small table appears so well made that it was clearly a high status item and not a toy (Dever *et al.* 1970: pl. 36:18).

Ashdod: Three small “offering tables”, rectangular in shape with short peg feet and one raised end similar to a couch, are examples of the range of small furnishings found in the cultic building in Area D (Dothan and Freedman 1967: fig. 43:7–9).

Tell esh-Shalaf: A small ceramic table with only one leg preserved (Mazar 1960: fig. 4.11) is an example of the distribution of this cultural element in the Iron Age.

III-D/1b. Offering table(?) with bread loaves

The first artefact in this class (WT 87-2/587) is a unique item whose identification is far from certain. The four stump legs are not perfectly flat on the bottom, suggesting that this unusual piece could have been attached to another object. The legs join a relatively horizontal body that supports two round tapering discs that each supports a triangular piece of clay. Another interpretation is that this is some kind of support for another item entirely. However, the forming techniques that were evident when the item was found in pieces show clearly that the discs were deliberately made to taper toward the centre, and that the two triangular loaves, also on a slant, do not form a secure support. A second item (WT 90-2/590) is less complete and consists only of two legs and part of the “body”. Neither of these objects reveals any zoomorphic features.

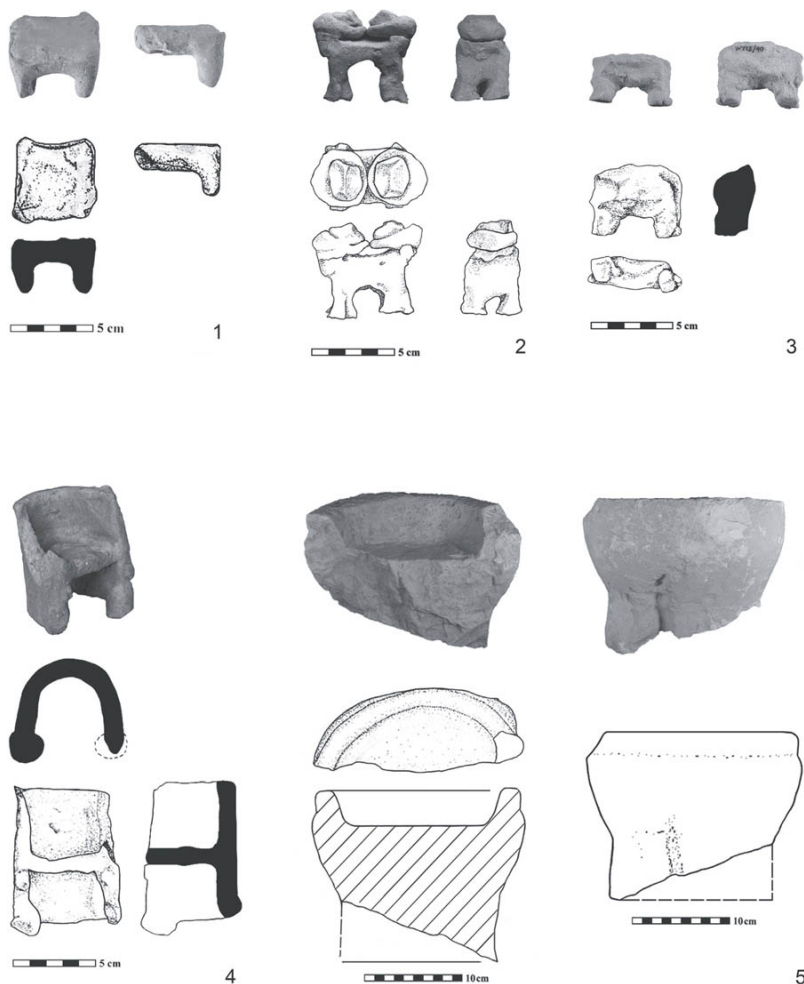


Figure 5.6. Furnishings: miniature furniture, 1) WT267; 2) WT 87-2/587; 3) WT 90-2/590; 4) WT 45-2/54; limestone altar, 5) WT 19-1

CATALOGUE

WT 87-2/587 (Fig. 5.6:2; A2:5/10). Model; L 6.2, W 5.6, H 5.5 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3).

WT 90-2/590 (Fig. 5.6:3; A2:6/10). Model; L 5.6, W 4.3, T 2.4 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3).

III-D/2. Model throne/chair

The model chair has a rounded back which encloses the seat on three sides. On the front, just below the level of the seat, there is a knob attached to the front edge of the chair. The seat is midway between the base and the top of the back. There are no known parallels to this artefact.

CATALOGUE

WT 45-2/545 (Fig. 5.6:4; A2:11/18). Round-backed model chair; H 8.8, W 6.9, T 5.8 cm; pale brown fabric (10YR 6/3), gray (10YR 5/1) core; broken.

III.D-3. Limestone Footed Altar

The single altar recovered at WT-13 is broken in half from top to bottom. In basic shape, the altar is round with a squared central depression on the top. The lower half suggests a footed base, although severe damage has distorted its shape.

CATALOGUE

WT 19-1 (Fig. 5.6:5; 13R:0.5/16). D 21.6, H 16.6 cm; broken. Among the 43 altars recovered at Mudayna Thamad, there was no exact parallel to Altar WT 19, neither does there appear to be a parallel at Tel Mique-Ekron, where most altars are horned (Gitin 2002; 2009).

IV. COMMUNICATION

IV-A. Inscribed materials

Apart from the scarab of Ahmose Nefertari, only two inscribed objects were recovered. These items consist of a juglet with incised symbols (WT 328; Fig. 7.3:16; A6:2/4) and a limestone slab with a Thamudic inscription (see [Chapter 13](#)). Attempts to interpret the inscription on juglet WT 328 have not yielded meaningful results.

V. COSMETIC AND HIGH STATUS ARTEFACTS

V-A. *Cosmetic dishes*

Cosmetic dishes used to mix pigments were usually made of shell or ivory whereas cosmetic mortars for grinding various minerals were more often made of stone. At WT-13, there are a small number of broken shell dishes and two small stone mortars which can be assigned to these classes.

V-A/1. *Shell dishes*

No complete examples of *tridacna* used as cosmetic dishes are included in the corpus. However, there are several badly worn *tridacna* fragments that may have originally served that function.

CATALOGUE

WT 34-2/534 (Figs. 5.7:1; 10.2:4; A2:11/18). L 4.2, W 5.3 cm; fragment.

WT 144-2/644 (Figs. 5.7:2; 10.2:6; A2:29/39). L 6.40, W 7.00 cm; chipped all around.

Parallels

☞ *Amman*: A *Tridacna maxima*, decorated with inlaid eyes, is unusual (Koutsoukou, Aplin and Najjar 1997:147, item 185), but indicates the extent of trade and the diversity of artistic ornamentation of these luxury items.

Tall Jawa: Three shell dishes were identified in the Tall Jawa corpus, a partially modified *Tridacna* (TJ 1471) and two *Unio* (fresh water) shells (Daviau 2002: fig. 2.26:1).²⁹ While *Tridacna* are not common in Ammonite territory, they do appear on occasion and the finest examples are engraved. The largest numbers come from sites in Edom.

Hesban: Two *Tridacna*, one holed or worn through, were recovered

along with *Glycymeris* and *Conus* shells (Platt 2009: fig. 13.24:6, 7).

Busayra: At Busayra, 85 fragments and almost complete *Tridacna squamosa* were studied by Reese *et al.* (2002).

Tawilan: Reese (1995a:93) also studied 15 examples of *Tridacna*, which he described by as possible containers or as the raw material for engraved shell dishes.

V-B. Cosmetic mortars

V-B/1. Small basalt mortars

Finely-made small mortars are few in number. The best example is a one with a biconical body profile (WT 329).

CATALOGUE

WT 329-5/510 (Fig. 5.7:3; A2:57/92). Basalt; D 7.5, H 3.6, int D 6.0, Dpt 2.2 cm; intact.

WT 115-2/615 (Fig. 5.7:4; A2:6/10). Basalt; D 7.0, H 3.5, Dpt 1.6 cm; broken.

WT 243-4/ (Fig. 5.7:5; A3:0.5/8). Basalt; L 4.2+ , W 3.8+ , H 4.5, int Dpt 3.0 cm; fragment.

Description: WT 329-5/510 is made of fine grain basalt in an unusual shape. The more common form is hemispherical with a shallow central depression of the same shape. In this case, a hemispherical depression is surrounded by a rounded lip and thick body wall, becoming thicker on the exterior to form its biconical shape. Although assigned here to the cosmetic assemblage, this small mortar may in fact have been used to pulverize herbs or spices. It does differ considerably from the flat-rimmed limestone and steatite cosmetic mortars well known from sites throughout the southern Levant (Daviau 2002:50–51).

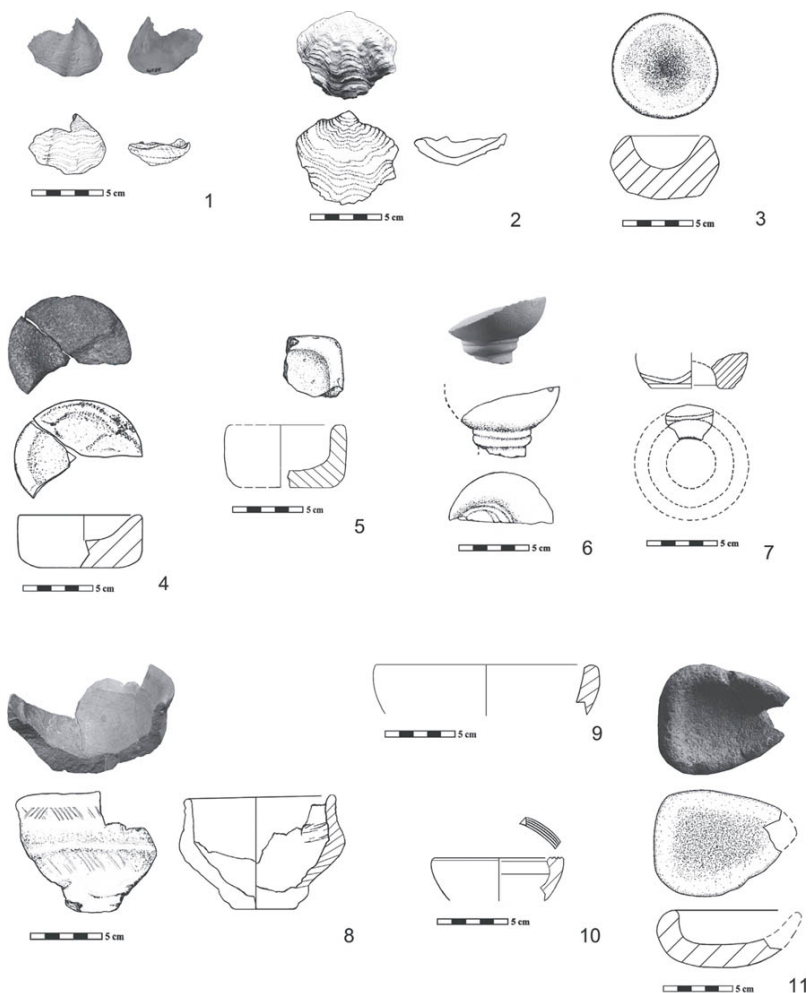


Figure 5.7. Cosmetic dishes and mortars: shell dishes, 1) WT 34-5/534; 2) WT 144-2/644; basalt mortars, 3) WT 329-5/510; 4) WT 115-2/615; 5) WT 243-4; calcite chalice, 6) WT 229-4; 7) WT 118-2/618; calcite bowls, 8) WT 255-4; 9) WT 226-4; 10) WT 311-5; spouted basalt mortar, 11) WT 105-2/605

WT 115-2/615 has a more common shape for a small mortar, flat bottom, vertical sides and a hemispherical depression. In this case also, the rim is rounded rather than flat and this basalt object, in the same size range as WT 329-5/510, could have been used to

pulverize small amounts of various materials, including cosmetics and spices. A broken fragment indicates the presence of another sub-type, namely, the small rectangular mortar (WT 243).

V-C. Alabaster/calcite vessels

V-C/1. Decorated stone bowls/chalices

V-C/1a. Lotus-motif decorated bowls/chalices

Two fragments represent high status fine limestone or alabaster vessels. In each case, the fragment is so small that only a portion of the floral motif is preserved. Nevertheless, both items have parallels in more complete examples. That this design was of Phoenician inspiration can be seen in larger architectural elements, such as the decorated capital from Tel Dor (Stern 1994: fig. 57A).

CATALOGUE

WT 229-4 (Fig. 5.7:6; A4:0.5/2). Chalice stem and base of bowl; D 7.0+ cm; fragment.

WT 118-2/618 (Fig. 5.7:7; 13R:0.5/35). Base of bowl; D 7.9 cm; white (10YR 8.5/1); fragment.

Parallels

Busayra: A base fragment of a decorated bowl (Sedman 2002: pl. 10.135) has the same style of flattened ring base as WT 118-2/618.

V-C/2. Small multifunctional stone vessels

A small deep bowl (WT 255-4) with a gently carinated body and two bowls with smooth, well-finished surfaces represented by rim fragments may have been multi-functional. WT 255-4 has a ring base preserved only on one side just below an elongated groove. Shallow diagonal tool marks in very fine strokes are present

between the carination and the base. The smaller of the two round-sided bowls (WT 311-5) has a flat rim decorated with an incised design.

CATALOGUE

WT 255-4 (Fig. 5.7:8; A5:1/16). Exterior body D 10.5, H 7.5, int Dpt 6.3 cm; broken.

WT 226-4 (Fig. 5.7:9; A4:1/5). Rim D 15.0 cm; fragment.

WT 311-5 (Fig. 5.7:10; A5:8/30). Bowl; D 9.0, H *ca.* 3.8, cm; fragment.

V-D. Small spouted mortars

Although broken at one end, this finely-made mortar, triangular in shape, is a rare example of a spouted mortar.

CATALOGUE

WT 105-2/605 (Fig. 5.7:11; A2:2/6). Basalt mortar; L 9.6 W 7.9, H 4.1, int Dpt 2.3 cm; broken.

Parallels

Tall Jawa: Similar in size are the three small basalt mortars with a spout at one end (Daviau 2002:129; fig. 2.86:1–3).

VI. ECONOMY

A variety of objects usually associated with the economy, domestic activities and utilitarian or industrial purposes were also present in the Strata III and II assemblages.

VI-A. Scale weights

Uninscribed scale weights come in a variety of shapes; dome-shaped, spherical, and ovoid (Daviau and Dion 2002a). In some cases, these can be identified by close comparison with inscribed

weights, although there are also instances of uninscribed and unfinished weights that are difficult to classify with certainty (Diringer 1953:350). AT WT-13, these include a group of polished black stone spheroids, of which WT 187 is an example. Other stones with irregular shape may also be assigned to this class.

CATALOGUE

WT 111-2/611 (Fig. 5.8:1; A2:2/12). Volcanic stone, dome-shaped; D 2.2, H 1.8 cm; black (5YR 3/1); 15.4 g; nicked.

WT 187-3/687 (Fig. 5.8:2; A2:36/50). Volcanic stone; D 1.8 cm; black (2.5Y 2/0); 5.6 g.

WT 232-2 (Fig. 5.8:3; A2:22/33). Quartz; D 1.6 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4); 5.5 g.

WT 388 (Fig. 5.8:4; A2:9/14). Quartz; L 1.7, W 1.4, T 0.9 cm, multi-coloured; 3.5 g.

WT 578 (Fig. 5.8:5; A1:39/94). Quartz; L 2.0, W 1.7, T 1.2 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4); 7.2 g.

WT 442 (Fig. 5.8:6; A2:0.5/95). Feldspar; L 3.3, T 1.5 cm; mottled colouring.

WT 379 (Fig. 5.8:7; A2:58/93). Chert nodule; L 2.6, W 2.1, T 1.1 cm; white (10YR 8/1); 11.3 g.

WT 531 (Fig. 5.8:8; A6:5/45). Quartz; L 2.9, W 2.2, T 1.8; 15.1 g; complete,

WT 482 (Fig. 5.8:9; A1:28/40). Quartz; L 2.8, W 2.5, T 2.1 cm; 20.2 g; chipped.

Description: Weight WT 111-2/611 is close in shape and weight (15.4) to the inscribed thirty *gerah* weight (16.316 g) from Building 200 at Mudayna Thamad (MT 687-5/31; Daviau and Dion 2002a: fig. 3.2, and references there). The slight difference in weight may be accounted for by the rough condition of the exterior of WT 111-2/611 that appears to be worn in places. Another example (WT 531; Fig. 5.8:8) is somewhat lighter at 15.1 g. Otherwise, weights with a known value in this range are few

(for example, in the collections from Lachish, Diringer 1953; Sass 2004), although weights less than one shekel are relatively common, such as the 10-gerah weights from Tel Malḥata (Kletter 2015:532; fig. 8.1:16). Bienkowski (2011:101; fig.7.2:6) illustrates an uninscribed dome-shaped weight from Umm al-Biyara that is slightly larger in size, but he does not give the weight.

Two weights (WT 187-3/687, WT 232-2), both close to 5.6 g, are good candidates for *beka* weights of half a shekel. Close in size, but lighter in weight is a single one-third shekel weight (WT 388) at 3.5 g, while the heaviest weight, apart from WT 111-2/611, is 7.2 g, or two-thirds shekel, known as a *pym* weight (Scott 1959: table B). Small uninscribed stones from Megiddo, identified as possible weights, serve as good parallels, such as 96/K/36/AR1 (Sass 2000: fig. 12. 14:5) with a weight of 7.3 g (*pym*?). An inscribed *pym* weight from Tell Jemmeh is probably at the upper limit of these weights at 8 gm (Ben-Shlomo 2014:68; fig. 10e) An echinus fossil from Megiddo could have served as a *beka* weight at 5.28 g, while an ovoid stone of 11.01 g is in the range of a shekel (Sass 2000; fig. 12.13:8, 9). Two ovoid stones (WT 442, 379; Fig. 5.8:6, 7) may have served as shekels, weighting 11.2 and 11.3 grams respectively, while another quartz nodule (Fig. 5.8:9) at 20.2 g has a parallel at Lachish (Sass 2004: fig. 28.8:15). An oval, dome-shaped weight of 11.88 g from Tel Jezreel is assigned by Kletter (1997:117) to the 8th century, suggesting the use of a similar weight system.

VII. STONE CONTAINERS

VII-A. Undecorated limestone vessels

A variety of crudely cut soft limestone vessels are in contrast to the finely smoothed limestone and calcite objects. At the same time, these are not mortars used in food preparation, since the interior shows little or no smoothing that would be the result of crushing or pounding. These containers appear to be related to the

cultic activities carried out in the shrine and not for daily utilitarian purposes. Using the soft limestone available locally, such artefacts could be quickly carved and ready for use. This is borne out by the actual objects themselves, which appear roughly made, with tool marks still visible.³⁰

VII-A/1. Small round base vessels

A crudely formed ovoid container is the smallest in this class. Known also at Mudayna Thamad (MT 250, 1218, object registry), the precise function of these objects remains obscure.

CATALOGUE

WT 391 (Fig. 5.8:10; A3:5/11). L 9.7, W 5.5, H 5.8 cm; complete.

Parallels

Tall al-Umayri: A small limestone object, in the same size range as WT 391, has a round depression, broken at the base, and was identified as a door socket (Herr and Platt 2002: fig. 16.15:1708). Given its small size, it appears more likely to be a container or small mortar.

Tawilan: One small crudely formed limestone bowl and another of pumice are found in an assemblage of finely made vessels (Bienkowski 1995: fig. 9.18:4; 9.17:7, respectively).

VII-A/2 Vessels with flat base

VII-A/2-a. Medium size bowls with flat base

Several limestone bowls preserved rim to base represent various styles of simple rim, carinated or round-sided, containers. In most instances, tool marks are clearly visible on the interior and exterior of these soft stone objects. Not shown is another example with the same rounded rim (WT 274-4).

CATALOGUE

WT 159-2/659 (Fig. 5.8:11; A2:7/24). Round container; D 12, H 7.0, int Dpt 2.5 cm: broken.

WT 158-2/658 (Fig. 5.8:12; A2:11/25). Limestone; L 13.7, H 8.7, int Dpt 4.9 cm; broken.

VII-A/2-b. Medium size biconical bowl with flat base

In the same size range is a bowl with a thickened body (WT 314-5), giving it a biconical shape. The exterior was carefully formed, as was the disc base.

CATALOGUE

WT 314-5 (Fig. 5.8:13; A4:10/16). Limestone bowl; max body D 20.0, int D 14.0, H 6.5, int Dpt 5.7 cm; broken.

VII-A/3. Shallow vessels with round base

Two limestone vessels with thick base and one of basalt are shallow, while another (WT 392-5) is very shallow.

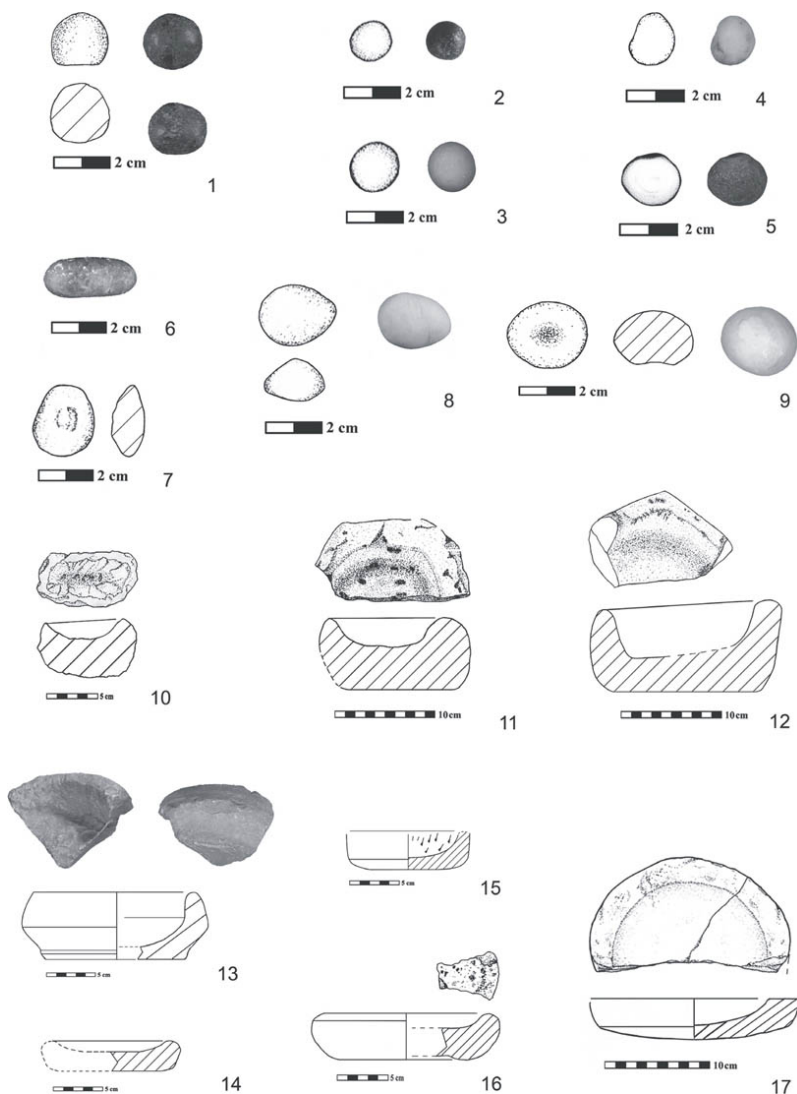


Figure 5.8. Specialized equipment: scale weights, 1) WT 111-2/611; 2) WT187-3/687; 3) WT 232-2; 4) WT 388; 5) WT 578; 6) WT 442; 7) WT 379; 8) WT 531; 9) WT 482; stone vessels, 10) WT 391; 11) WT 159-2/659; 12) WT 158-2/658; 13) WT 314-5; 14) WT 107-2/607; 15) WT 544-6; 16) WT 390-5; 17) WT 392-5

WT 107-2/607 (Fig. 5.8:14; A2:7/11). Limestone vessel; D 12.0, H 2.6, int Dpt 1.3 cm; broken.

- WT 544-6* (Fig. 5.8:15; A1:40/70). Limestone vessel; D 11.5, H 3.5, int Dpt 2.3 cm; broken.
- WT 390-5* (Fig. 5.8:16; A6:5/1). Basalt mortar(?); D 16.5, H 4.3 cm; fragment.
- WT 392-5* (Fig. 5.8:17; A3:5/11). Thick-walled vessel; D 19.0, H 5.1, int Dpt 2.5 cm; broken.

VII-B. Large stone vessels

Evidence for a number of other stone vessels comes from limestone and basalt rim sherds that suggest multifunctional usage. These vessels are larger and, in some cases, better made³¹ than the crudely cut vessels discussed above. This is especially true of the basalt bowl rim (Fig. 5.9:3) and a limestone bowl with a bar handle (Fig. 5.9:8). This basalt bowl has a bevelled lip, relatively vertical stance and squared rim. Two tiny depressions (2–3 mm) in the exterior below the rim remain unexplained; the larger of the two appears natural, while the smaller one is chipped and could have been drilled.

CATALOGUE

- WT 27-1* (Fig. 5.9:1; A10:0.5/30). Shallow container; D 28.0 cm; broken.
- WT 226-4* (Fig. 5.9:2; A4:1/5). Limestone; D 20.0 cm; fragment.
- WT 223* (Fig. 5.9:3; A1:1/11). Basalt bowl; D 18.5 cm; fragment.
- WT 274-4* (Fig. 5.9:4; A4:5/12). Shallow tray; D 27.0, H 5.4, int Dpt 3.5 cm; fragment.
- WT 485-6* (Fig. 5.9:5; A1:39/62). Deep vessel; D 26.0 cm broken.
- WT 530-6* (Fig. 5.9:6; A1:40/70). Deep vessel; D 24.0, H 10.8, int Dpt 7.5 cm; broken.
- WT 160-3/660* (Fig. 5.9:7; A2:7/31). D 28.0, H 6.4, int Dpt 5.5 cm; broken.
- WT 28-1* (Fig. 5.9:8; A10:0.5/30). Thick-walled basin; D 20.0 cm; fragment.
- WT 308-5* (Fig. 5.9:9; A4:0.5/17). Limestone; D 44.0, int D 40.0

cm; fragment.

Parallels

Tall Jawa: The rim of a finely ground tripod bowl (TJ 668; Daviau 2002a:119; fig. 2.80:1) may be considered an adequate parallel for basalt bowl WT 223.

VII-C. Hand tools

The utilitarian equipment consists of four polishing stones, one fine grain basalt hand stone and a group of limestone and basalt bowls and containers.

VII-C/1. Small and medium polishing stones

Two small ovoid stones show clear evidence of polishing (Fig. 5.9:11, 12), while a larger stone (Fig. 5.9:10) is discoid in shape with evidence of crushing on both obverse and reverse. Stone slab WT 57-2/557 is rectangular in shape and smooth on both the reverse and obverse with a small chip on one side. The precise function of these tools in the context of the shrine is unclear.

CATALOGUE

WT 380 (Fig. 5.9:10; A2:53/87). Stone tool; D 3.65, T 1.5 cm; crushed surfaces.

WT 584 (Fig. 5.9:11; A10:0.5/101). Chert; L 3.5, W 1.5 cm; white (10YR 8/1); complete.

WT 582 (Fig. 5.9:12; A1:24/35). Chert; L 4.1, W 1.7, T 1.6 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6); complete.

WT 57-2/557 (Fig. 5.9:13; A2:6/10). Limestone slab; L 7.7, W 6.5, T 1.9 cm; chipped.

VII-C/2. Hand grinder

Better understood is a basalt hand stone, circular in shape and

slightly ovoid in section. Usually identified as a food preparation tool, this very fine grained stone object from Stratum III may have been multifunctional.

CATALOGUE

WT 467-6/527 (Figs. 5.9:14; 5.9:14; A1:45/84). Basalt; D 13.6, T 11.6 cm; complete.

Hand stones used for grinding and crushing are found by their hundreds in domestic and industrial contexts. A typological study of groundstone hand tools reveals various shapes chosen for use in mortars that were square, round and triangular, designed for various tasks (Daviau 2002). This hand stone is closer in size to industrial tools found at Mudayna Thamad (pers. observation).

VIII. COLLECTIBLES

VIII-A. Natural stone collectibles

A number of stone and shell objects appear as anomalies in the corpus. Each one individually is an object of unknown use. However, taken together it is apparent that they were considered by ancient peoples to be valuable collectibles. In this corpus, 47% of the natural materials are of stone and include small pale-coloured pebbles, possibly pink quartz, and round black volcanic stones that look like they were chosen specifically as offerings. While they look like raw material for beads, most contemporary jewellery was formed of carnelian or faience ([Chapter 12](#)). Other stone items consist of scale weights (see above), fossilized shells, natural nodules, geological anomalies, and miscellaneous objects ([Chart 5.1](#)). There are only a few instances in which we can confirm that such geological exotica were offerings, for example when comparable items are found together in a bowl as at Megiddo (Sass 2000:412; fig. 12.50:1–5) or are from a known shrine site, such as the one at Timna (Rothenberg 1972:127).

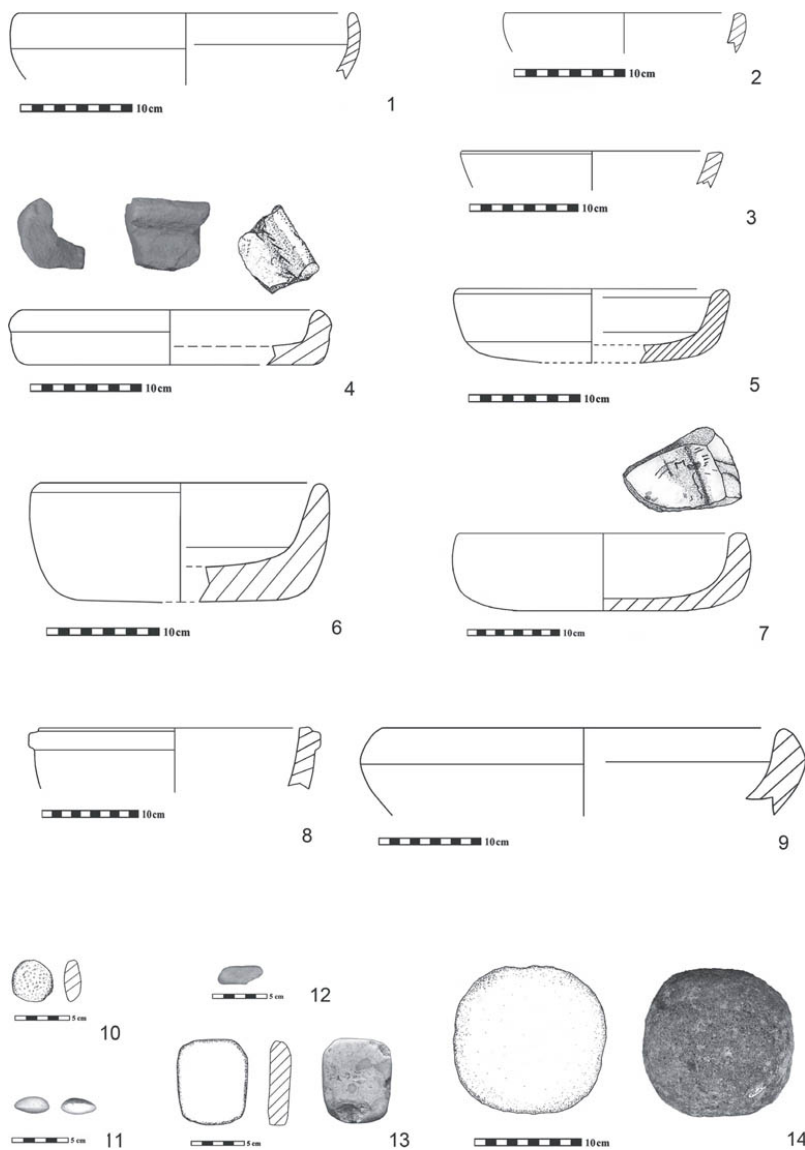


Figure 5.9. Utilitarian equipment: stone vessels, 1) WT 27; 2) WT 226-4; 3) WT 223; 4) WT 274; 5) WT 485; 6) WT 530; 7) WT 160; 8) WT 28; 9) WT 308; hand stones, 10) WT 380; 11) WT 584; 12) WT 582; 13) WT 57-2/557; 14) WT 467-6/527

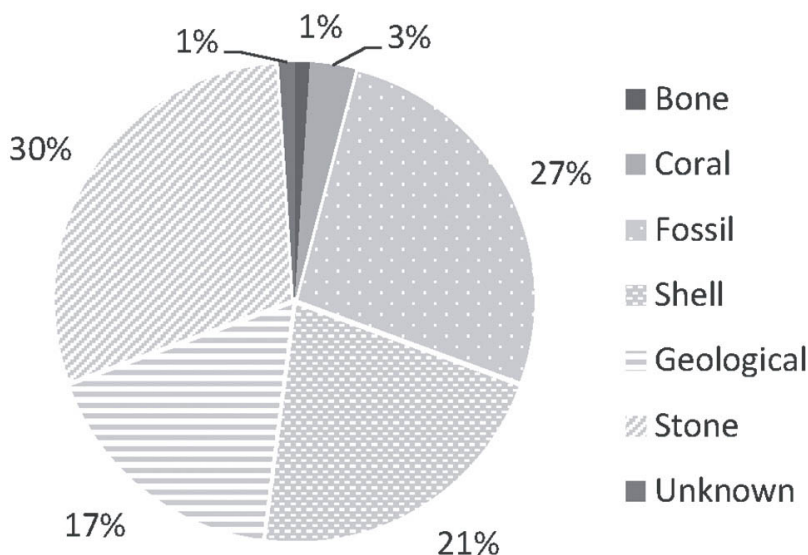


Chart 5.1. Raw Materials and geological samples

Mineral formations, especially unusual forms, as well as pieces with bright or rarely seen colouring may have had special meaning to the people who visited the shrine. The tradition of using certain colours on sculptures and stone carved reliefs had a long history in the ancient Near East. This is seen especially in Egyptian tomb painted reliefs from the Late Bronze and Iron Age and in Assyrian wall reliefs, which were also painted. Astrid Nunn³² notes that the colours white, red, black and blue have special significance.

VIII-A/1. Exotic stone clusters and nodules

Several stones with exotic features with deposits formed by solution are present in various colours. WT 294 has a repeated swirl pattern, while WT 298 is a compact cluster of small swirls (Fig. 5.10:1, 2). Three stones are quartz crystal clusters, one compact or worn down and two with radiating crystals, ranging in colour from white to pale gray. Two other clusters are rounded nodules of volcanic material in calcium carbonate (Fig. 5.10:6, 7).

One large rounded piece of water worn coral is also included in this assemblage (Fig. 5.10:8). Only one stone appears to be sandstone with a mud deposit (Fig. 5.10:9); its shape resembles a broken Djed pillar that may have made it attractive to its collector.³³ Five stones are unusual formations of chert; one small white nodule has the shape of a turban and another has the shape of a small animal (Fig. 5.10:11, 12), a third is a large colourful spiral, broken around the bottom (Fig. 5.10:13), while the largest stone (Fig. 5.10:15) has a dark red exterior as does a smaller sample (WT 580) with similar colouring. Another exotic formation appears as a cluster (WT 450; Fig. 5.10:14) of varying size nodules of volcanic material in a radiating pattern.

CATALOGUE

- WT 294 (Fig. 5.10:1; A2:23/34). Chert nodule in chalk; L 6.1, H 4.4, T 3.0 cm; obv, pink (7.5YR 8/4); rev, very pale brown (10YR 8/3); chipped.
- WT 298 (Fig. 5.10:2; A2:14/22). Red nodule; L 4.3; W 3.7, T 1.7 cm; weak red (10R 5/4); complete.
- WT 295 (Fig. 5.10:3; A2:31/41). Large quartz cluster; maximum 4.8 cm; broken.
- WT 506 (Fig. 5.10:4; A4:5/35). Small radiating quartz cluster, irregular in shape; maximum 3.1 cm; white (N 9.5/); broken.
- WT 360 (Fig. 5.10:5; A4:5/35). Squared quartz nodule; 4.3 cm; white (N 9/); points worn.
- WT 296 (Fig. 5.10:6; A2:23/35). Cluster of volcanic nodules; L 4.2, W 3.9 cm; dark reddish brown (5YR 4/3) exterior; broken.
- WT 352 (Fig. 5.10:7; A2:23/35). Small cluster of volcanic nodules; L 3.0; W 2.4 cm; weak red (10R 5/3); complete.
- WT 33-2 (Fig. 5.10:8; A2:7/24). Coral; L 4.9, W 4.4, T 2.6 cm; complete.
- WT 56-2 (Fig. 5.10:9; A2:2/3). Sandstone; W 2.1, T 2.4, H 2.8 cm; broken.

- WT 493 (Fig. 5.10:10; A1:35/57). Chert with iron inclusions; W 1.7, T 1.1; H 2.6, broken.
- WT 317 (Fig. 5.10:11; A3:10/16). Chert; W at base 2.7, T 3.2, H 2.7 cm; complete.
- WT 299 (Fig. 5.10:12; A2:11/18). Chert; W 1.8, T 2.5, H 3.1 cm; broken.
- WT 121 (Fig. 5.10:13; A10:0.5/40). Chert spiral; W 4.3, T 3.2, H 6.8 cm; broken.
- WT 450 (Fig. 5.10:14; A9:1/2). Black volcanic cluster; L 5.5, W 4.8 cm; black (N 2.5/); broken
- WT 581 (Fig. 5.10:15; 13R:0.5/30). Chert; L 14.4, W 8.0, T 1.9–2.7 cm; weak red (10R 4/3) exterior, gray (5YR 5/1) interior; broken.

Parallels

Tall al-ʿUmayri: A large stone nodule with complex features was found in the cult niche of the Late Bronze Age temple (Herr and Clark 2005: fig. 15; Bramlett 2008:139; fig. 4:11, 12). Although larger in size, this strange stone is similar in its shape and unusual formation to WT 294.

Timna: The Hathor shrine at Timna also yielded stone nodules, each with an exotic or suggestive shape (Rothenberg 1972: pls. 105–107).

Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat): Three pieces of coral were recovered from various strata; two were in secure loci assigned to Strata 4 and 3c (Bar-Yosef Mayer 2007: Table 18.2).

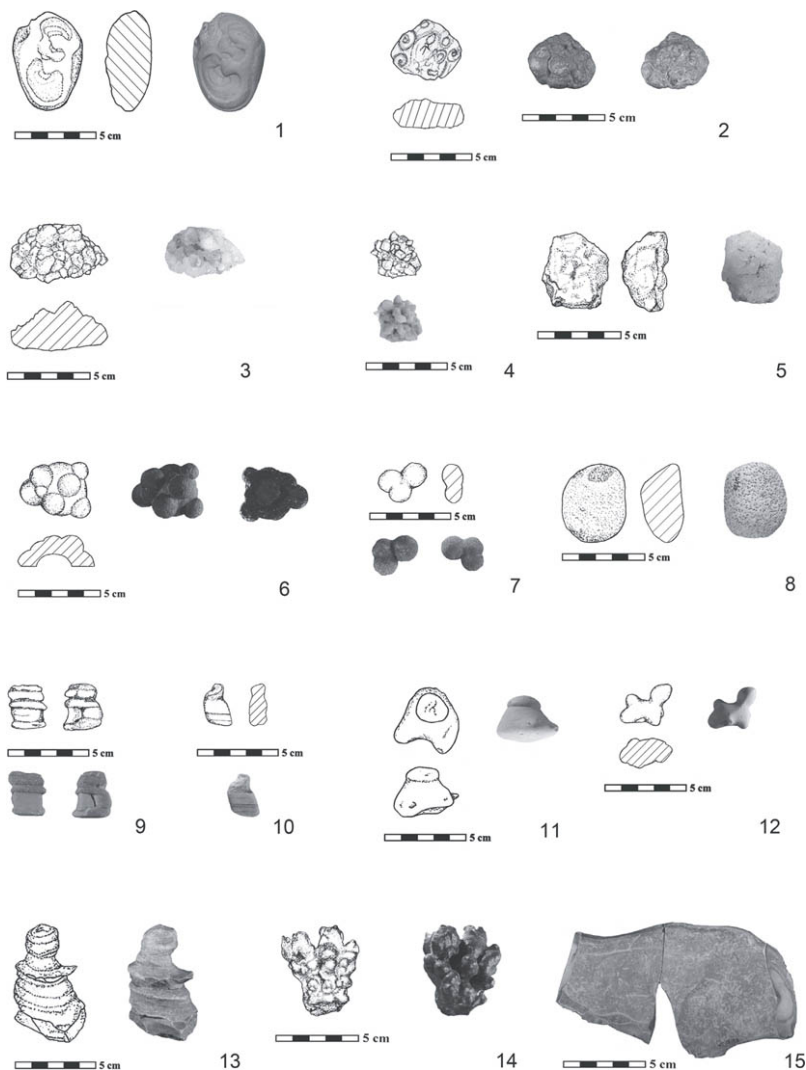


Figure 5.10. Collectible stone samples: 1) WT 294; 2) WT 298; 3) WT 295; 4) WT 506; 5) WT 360; 6) WT 296; 7) WT 352; 8) WT 33-2; 9) WT 56-2; 10) WT 493; 11) WT 317; 12) WT 299; 13) WT 121; 14) WT 450; 15) WT 581

VIII-A/2. Other biological and geological samples

Intact and broken shell fossils appear to have been brought to the site from the nearby wadi and from further afield (see [Chapters 10](#)

and 11 below for detailed discussion); these include shells, fossils and branched coral. Comparable finds come from temple, shrine and domestic contexts.

Parallels

Timna☪: The presence of shells at cultic sites such as the shrine of Hathor at Timna☪ is not uncommon (Reese 1988).

Tall as-Sa☪ *idiyya*: Shells were also used as grave gifts; one such gift placed in a child's grave (Tomb 104) consists of four shells in a bowl (Pritchard 1980:17; fig. 53:1).

Tall Jawa: At Tall Jawa, a small number of murex shells were present in domestic contexts (Reese 2002:280). These may have been related to industrial or craft activities or to cultic activities carried out in the home (Daviau 2001b).

IX. STORAGE

In view of the nature of the site, little evidence for storage was identified apart from container vessels. However, six reworked sherds may have served as stoppers or covers. Body sherds, reworked in the form of a disc, were handy jar or jug stoppers, as well as blanks for spindle whorls. Large numbers of such sherds are known from various sites south of ☪Amman, such as Tall al-☪ Umayri (London 1991:405–417) and Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002:177–180; fig. 2.139–2.141).³⁴ Examples from more recent excavations at Lachish also yielded a number of reworked discs (Sass 2004: fig. 28.2:20–26). At Tel Malḥata, some reworked sherds had carefully finished edges while others were left rough (Freud and Reshef 2015; fig. 14.3).

CATALOGUE

WT 128 (Fig. 5.11:1; A2:14/30). Reworked disc; D 4.0, T 1.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior, light red (5YR 6/6)

interior surface (1997/1101).

WT 213 (Fig. 5.11:2; A2:2/6). Reworked disc; D 3.0, T 0.9 cm; weak red (10YR 4/2) exterior, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) interior (1997/1102).

WT 359 (Fig. 5.11:3; A6:1/3). Reworked disc; D 3.9, T 1.1 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) exterior, intact (2001/1101).

WT 369 (Fig. 5.11:4; A1:28/59). Reworked disc; D 4.0, T 0.8 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior; broken (2003/1102).

WT 370 (Fig. 5.11:5; A7:2/5). Reworked disc; D 3.5–3.6, T 1.3 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4–6/3) surfaces; intact (2003/1101).

WT 385 (Fig. 5.11:6; A10:0.5/101). Reworked disc; D 4.6, T 0.9 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) surfaces (2001/1102).

X. TEXTILE PRODUCTION

X-A. Spinning Tools

X-A/1. Ceramic spindle whorls

A small number of spindle whorls from various sites were fashioned from clay and then fired. These very well made artefacts were perforated before firing, lessening the danger of breakage during the drilling process which was used on reworked sherds. One reworked whorl is so finely finished that its edge was smoothed, similar to baked whorls.

CATALOGUE

WT 276-4/509 (Fig. 5.11:7; A4:8/13). Ceramic whorl; D 4.9, int D 0.9, T 0.9 cm; pink surfaces (7.5YR 7/4); intact.

Parallels

Megiddo: A number of hand-made discs were designed specifically as whorls (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pls. 93:5, 22, 26–27, 50, passim).

Lachish: Among the textile tools were 29 spindle whorls, of which three were of baked clay (Sass 2004: fig.28.10:7, 8).

Tall al-Fukhār: Both hand-formed and reworked ceramic spindle whorls date to Iron II and Iron II/Hellenistic contexts (Jensen 2015:353–354; pls. 210:4–9; 211:1, 2).

X-A/2. Reworked ceramic spindle whorls

Reworked sherds, appearing in their hundreds on Iron Age sites, were often fashioned into fly wheels for spindles (spindle whorls). In most cases these whorls are found broken, possibly the result of the process of drilling the central perforation (Daviau 2002:185).³⁵ Produced from sherds whose edges have been roughly reworked, these small craft-related tools are usually found in domestic contexts, where spinning accompanied other domestic activities, such as child care and food preparation. That textile production was also an important religious function is seen in the reference to “weaving garments for the goddess” (2 Kgs.23:7), although weaving in the shrine itself is not represented in the assemblage, since there are no loom weights. It is noteworthy that several spindle whorls were found in the Stratum III ash layer.

Of the 22 reworked whorls found at WT-13,³⁶ the majority were formed from storejar and pithos sherds, yielding thick whorls (1.5 cm), such as WT 140 and WT 546. While whorls are usually circular in shape, a small number are oval (WT 140) or even square (WT 139). The largest (WT140) has a diameter of 10.1 cm, while the smallest (WT 572) is 5.2 cm in diameter.

CATALOGUE

WT 546 (Fig. 5.11:8; A7:3/6). D 7.9, T 1.9 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) exterior; broken.

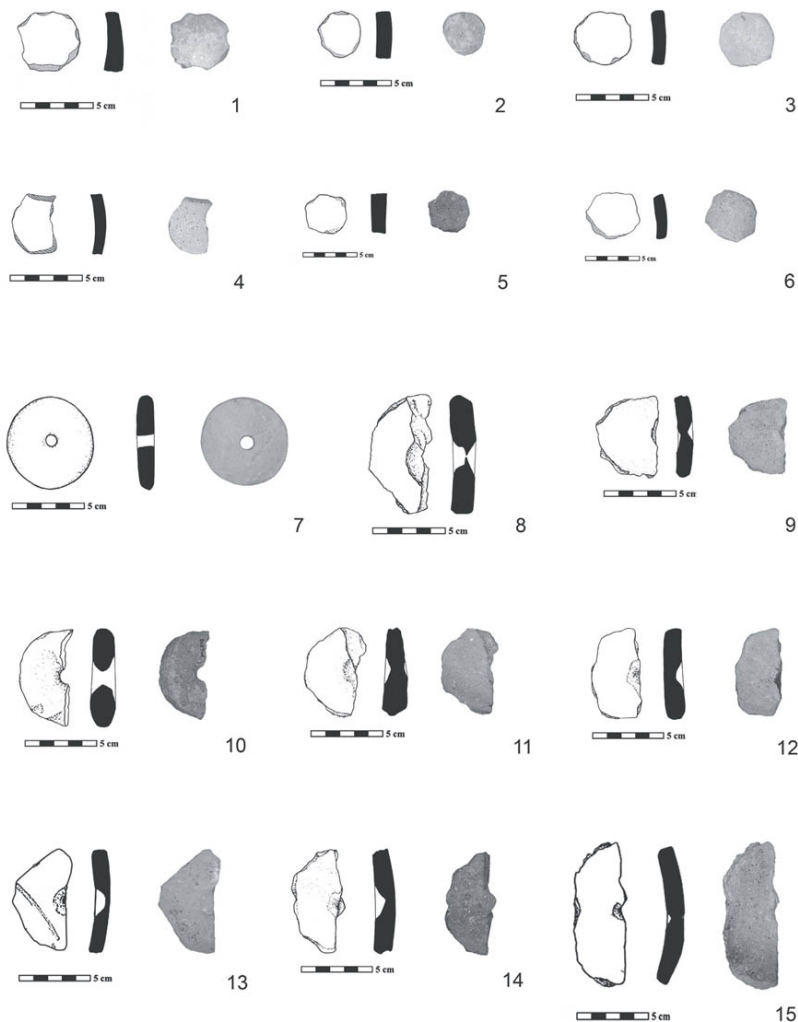


Figure 5.11. Utilitarian objects: 1–6) reworked sherds; 7–15) spindle whorls

WT 547 (Fig. 5.11:9; A7:5/8). D 5.6, T 1.1 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior; broken.

WT 502 (Fig. 5.11:10; A1:38/73). D 6.3, T 1.9, int D 0.9 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) exterior; broken.

WT 533 (Fig. 5.11:11; A3:1/16). D 5.9, T 1.7 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior; broken.

WT 567 (Fig. 5.11:12; A7:3/17). D 6.2, T 1.4 cm; reddish yellow

(5YR 6/6) exterior; broken.

WT 139-2/639 (Fig. 5.11:13; A1:15/15). D 7.1, T 1.3 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2); unfinished(?); broken.

WT 573 (Fig. 5.11:14; A6:9/42). D 5.6, T 1.0, int D 1.6 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) exterior; broken.

WT 140-2/640 (Fig. 5.11:15; A3:0.5/9). D 10.1, int D ca. 1.0, T 1.3 cm; light brown (7.5 YR 6/4) exterior; broken.

Additional whorls, also broken, include WT 268-4, 312, 313-4, 350, 351, 529, 543, 545, 548, 570, 571, 572.

Parallels

Transjordan: Tell er-Rumeith (Boertien 2015:259–261; Fig. 8.2); Tall al-Fukhār (Jensen 2015:351–352); Amman (Koutsoukou, Aplin and Najjar 1997:143, 154), Tall al-Umayri (Platt 1989: fig. 20.10, Objects #111, 135, 150, 204), Tall Jawa, where 105 whorls are published (Daviau 2002:184–188; fig. 2.144:1–17 + CD archive), and Balu (Worschech *et al.* 1986: fig. 15:62).

Cisjordan and Lebanon: Examples of reworked perforated sherds can be identified in the assemblages of artefacts from Tyre (Bikai 1978: pls. xxiv:16, 17; xxx:10, 11, 17, 18), Tell Keisan (Nodet 1980: pl. 96:39–44), Megiddo, where some clay whorls were made as such and others were reworked potsherds (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pls. 93:6, 23, 32, 54, 61–62, 68; 94:21, 45–46, 60; 95:18–19), Beth Shan (James 1966: fig. 110:8; James and McGovern 1993: fig. 120:1–3), Hazor (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. ccxxxii, fig. 21), Tell el-Farḥah(N) (Chambon 1984: pl. 77:3–5), Gezer (Dever *et al.* 1986: pl. 59:12), Lachish (Tufnell 1953: pl. 65:14; Sass 2004: fig. 28.10:9, 10), Beth-zur (Sellers *et al.* 1968:83; pl. 42b) and Beer-sheba (Herzog 1984: figs. 19:14; 25:17).

XI. FURNISHINGS

XI-A. Attachments

XI-A/1. Perforated objects

Although the full height of the surrounding walls could not be determined during excavation, a number of finds suggest a certain amount of roofed area and adornment of the interior space. Fragments of wood and mud roofing were recovered along with four items for suspension or attachment. These include one stone slab with large perforations and three ceramic disc-shaped objects, two with preserved perforations. All three were broken, however one disc (WT414) was painted with a bichrome symbol on the obverse and red paint on the outer edge.

CATALOGUE

WT 55-2 (Fig. 5.12:1; A2:2/4). Limestone tablet with drill holes; L 8.0, W 6.1, T 0.9 cm; broken.

WT 414-2 (Fig. 5.12:2; A2:2/12). D 9.1, T 0.9 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) surfaces, dark gray (N 4/) and red (2.5YR 5/6) paint; broken.

WT 415-2 (Fig. 5.12:3; A2:23/34). L 5.6, W 7.2, T 1.1 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) obverse, white (2.5Y 8/1) reverse; perforated; broken.

WT 417-2 (Fig. 5.12:4; A2:0.5/100). D 9.5, T 1.2 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) surfaces; perforated; broken.

WT 421 (Fig. 5.12:5; A3:0.5/9). D 11.0, T 1.2 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) surfaces, black (7.5YR 2.5/1) paint.

WT 420 (Fig. 5.12:6; A2:2/7). D 9.5, T 1.8 cm; light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) obverse, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) reverse; broken.

Description: Stone slab WT 55-2 is trapezoidal in shape and roughly finished. However, the two holes are precisely made, measuring ca. 1.1 cm in diameter. The most elaborate of the ceramic plaques (WT 414) is decorated with a previously unknown symbol or floral motif. The red paint in the shape of the number 9 was applied first. Then several black (dark gray) strokes were added, surrounding the upper part of the red symbol and ending in

several tails. There were remnants of both the red and black paint on the outer edge. The two remaining discs were perforated, WT 415 retains evidence that the small hole was made pre-firing from front to back in a specially formed protrusion. Faint traces of red paint were also seen on the obverse. While there is evidence that WT 417 also had the same style of protrusion, that area of the disc is broken.

Wall brackets from the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, especially from Cypriot sites are elongated ceramic objects, often painted and/or decorated with an attached figure. One example with a bull protome may come from Idalion (Karageorghis 2000: fig. 207). Typically these brackets have a hole for suspension at the top and a cup-shaped attachment at the bottom (Panitz-Cohen: 2006:613, 615; Girella 2010). A miniature version was recovered at Sarepta (Pritchard 1978: fig. 93). However, the finds from WT-13 are in a different class, smaller in size and disc-shaped with the result that their precise function remains a mystery.

XI-A/2. Plain discs

Two additional ceramic discs (WT 420, 421; Fig. 5.12:5, 6) are even less well understood and one other (WT A2/4.17) is badly broken. Given the size of their diameters, these discs may have been related to the large statues or served as symbols of offerings.

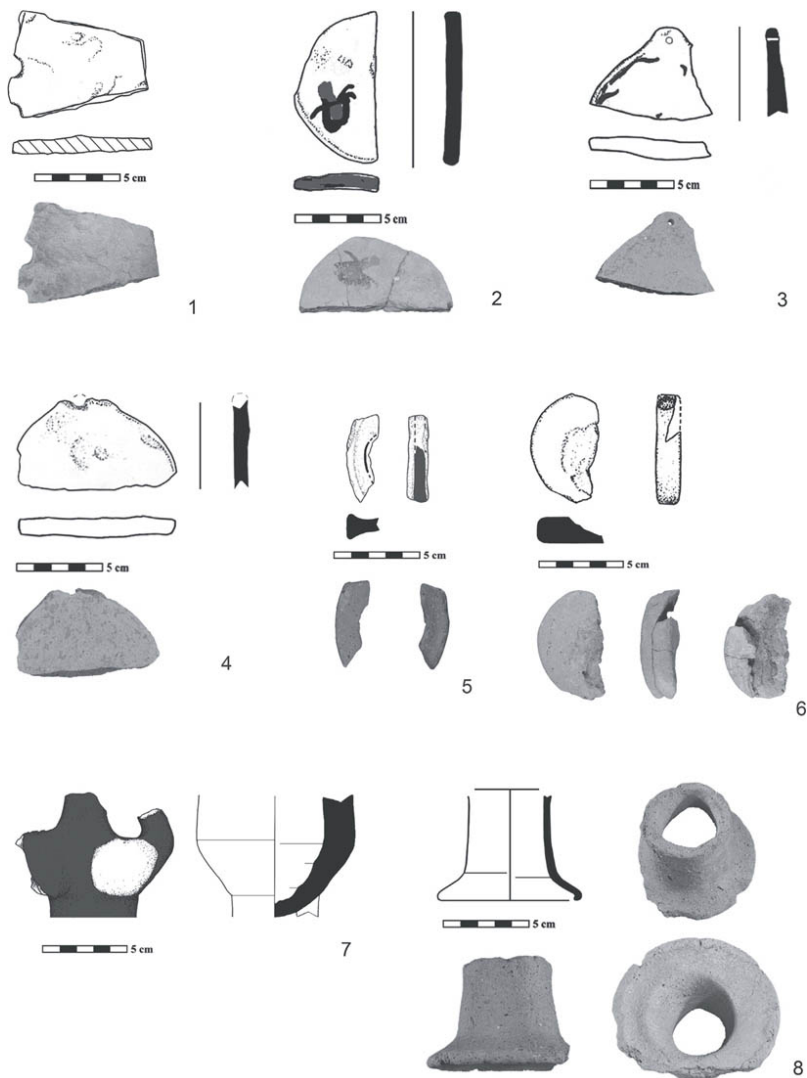


Figure 5.12. Miscellaneous: architectural elements, 1) WT 55-2; 2) WT 414-2; 3) WT 415-2; 4) WT 417-2; incomplete objects, 5) WT 421; 6) WT 420; 7) WT 514; 8) WT 579

XI-B. Specialty items

Two carefully made items appear to have been attached to a larger object. Vessel WT 514 (Fig. 5.12:7) is incomplete; on the base and

on one side are the scar and remains of its attachment to another object. The importance of this exotic vessel is evident in the treatment of the exterior with red slip. A second object with evidence for attachment (WT 579; Fig. 5.12:8) is trumpet-shaped, with an inturned lower lip retaining evidence for attachment on the lip. The upper end is broken.

CATALOGUE

WT 514-6 (Fig. 5.12:7; A1:28/60). Vessel; D 8.0, int D 6.2, H 5.0 cm; weak red (10R 5/4) slip, pink (5YR 7/4) interior; broken.

WT 579 (Fig. 5.12:8; A2:0.5/100). Attachment; D 8.2, int D 4.6, H 5.2 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior; pink (2.5YR 7/4) interior; broken.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

A number of objects, each unique, are unidentified at this stage in our understanding of ancient material culture. These include a number of ceramic objects and fragments of larger artefacts, as well as two limestone fragments, 84 pebbles, one lithic and one metal rod.

XII-A. Ceramic objects

One tiny perforated object (Fig. 5.13:1), biconical in shape, could have served as a stopper for a small juglet (see Chapter 7). Although small enough to function alternatively as a bead or pendant, it is not known whether jewellery was added to the ceramic statues or was offered separately. A second ceramic object (Fig. 5.13:2), apparently handmade, has a rim or finished edge with additional clay on both the interior and the exterior on one end; this fragment may have been part of an architectural model or statue. Two nearly cylindrical pieces of clay with one end pushed upward (Fig. 5.13:3, 4) cannot be associated with any other known object from the site. Of these, WT 207 was red

slipped on the obverse and flattened on the reverse, suggesting its attachment to another object. A number of cut marks on the exterior appear to have been made pre-firing.³⁷ The remaining ceramic fragments (Fig. 5.13:5, 6) could each be part of the head of a statue; WT 587 is rounded and shattered on the top, indicating that another component had been attached to it, while WT 586 is flatter with a single groove above the change of direction.

CATALOGUE

WT 321-5/511 (Fig. 5.13:1; A6:1/3). Ceramic cone shape, with lug handle; H 2.0, D 1.9 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3); perforated.

WT 193 (Fig. 5.13:2; A2:0.5/100). L 5.7, W 4.9, T 0.8–1.1cm; Pink (5YR 7/4) surfaces.

WT 400 (Fig. 5.13:3; A4:4/11). L 5.3, 2.1 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/4) surfaces; broken.

WT 207 (Fig. 5.13:4; A4: 0.5/2). L 5.1, W 2.1 cm; weak red (10R 4/4) slip on obverse, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) reverse; broken.

WT 587 (Fig. 5.13:5; A10:0.5/101). D 9.5, H 3.5 cm; Pink (5YR 7/3) surfaces.

WT 586 (Fig. 5.13:6; A9:2.11). D 13.5 cm; Pink (7.5YR 7/3) surfaces.

XII-B Stone objects

XII-B/1. Unidentified stone objects

Stone fragments in limestone and basalt appear to be chips from larger objects and were not registered. Among the registered samples, one piece of limestone (Fig. 5.13:8) was grooved, either deliberately carved in that shape or used as a sharpening stone. A second piece was evidently carved and flattened on one side, indicative of a specific type of object.

CATALOGUE

WT 233 (Fig. 5.13:7; A4:0.5/2). Carved stone with groove; limestone; L 7.1, W 4.2; broken.

WT 199-2/699 (Fig. 5.13:8; A2:6/10). Limestone, sub-cylindrical; L 4.30, W 3.00, T 2.40 cm; fragment.

XII-B/2. Stone pebbles

Very small pebbles, sometimes white or pink quartz (for example, WT 304, 383, 448, 460) are found at numerous sites where they are not a natural ingredient in the soil. Tentatively defined as a natural resource for jewellery making, a small number of these tiny stones (less than 2.0 cm in size) are presented here as examples of non-local polished, worked or water worn stones. More than 84 such pebbles were recovered and certain groups, as well as individual pebbles, were registered as objects.

As well, a number of other small stones, dark in colour, are round or semi-round in shape. The black stone balls (Fig. 5.13:10, 11), probably volcanic material, are similar to but smaller than the scale weight discussed above (see Fig. 5.8:2).

CATALOGUE

WT 247 (Fig. 5.13:9; A2:39/54, 55, 57). Six (of nine) quartz pebbles, very pale brown (10YR 8/2–7/4), light greenish gray (10Y 8/1), white (N 8/).

WT 304-5 Quartz pebble, D 0.80 cm; white (5Y 8/2).

WT 355 Small pebble; D 0.9 cm; dark reddish brown (5YR 2.5/2).

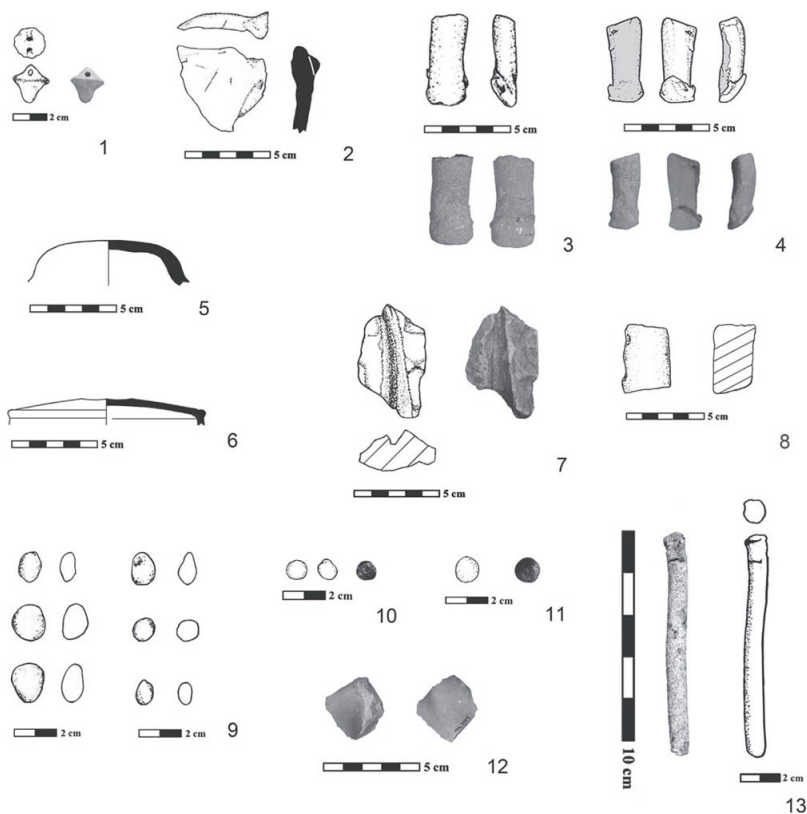


Figure 5.13. Miscellaneous and unidentified objects: 1) WT 321-5-511; 2) WT193; 3) 400; 4) WT 207; 5) 587; 6) WT 586; 7) WT 233; 8) WT 199; 9) WT 247; 10) WT 273; 11) WT 498; 12) WT 583; 13) WT 131-2/631

WT 305-5 Small stone; D 0.70, H 0.87 cm; weak red (10R 5/4).

WT 273 (Fig. 5.13:10). Small pebble; D 0.8; 1.3 g; black (N 2.5/).

WT 498 (Fig. 5.13:11). Small pebble; 1.1 cm; black (N 2.5/).

Parallels

Ayia Irini: Among the finds from the Period I sanctuary was a group of pebbles that were chosen for their shape and colour (Gjerstad 1948:821).

XII-B/3. Lithics

Only one chert flake was present in the Stratum II shrine. The use of lithic tools is not unknown in the Iron Age; for example, several flakes and blanks were found in food preparation areas at Tall Jawa (Daviau 2003:246).

CATALOGUE

WT 583 (Fig. 5.13:12). Chert flake; L 2.8, W 2.6, T 1.5 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/2).

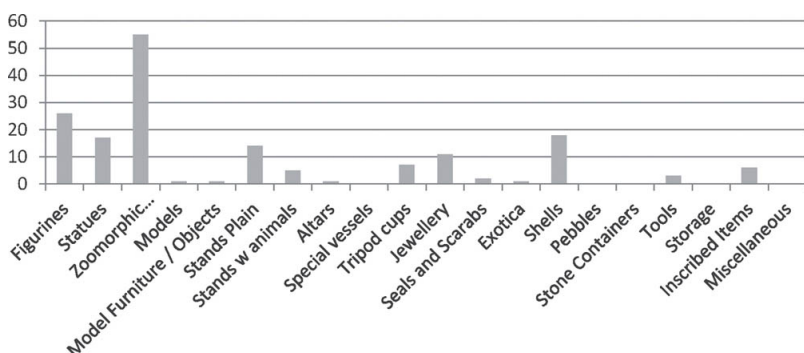


Chart 5.2. Object Types at Ḥorvat Qitmit (fragments not included)

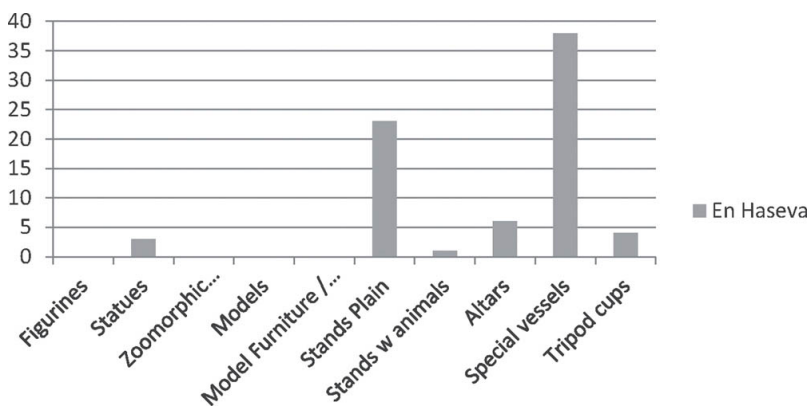


Chart 5.3. Object Types at En Ḥaseva (fragments not included)

XII-C. Metal objects

XII-C/1. Rod

A small number of objects from various periods were recovered in disturbed loci. These objects, along with a number of Roman period ceramic sherds and vessels, represent visits to the site, rather than later settlement or reuse. The function of certain objects and their principal period of use remain obscure, such as a well-formed metal rod and an unregistered curl of flat copper-based metal.

CATALOGUE

WT 131-2/631 (Fig. 5.13:13; A2:7/24). Iron rod; L 11.1, shaft D 1.1 cm; no head; intact.

Summary

Along with the pottery, figurines and statues, jewellery, shells and fossils, the cultic repertoire included amulets and scarabs, zoomorphic figurines, architectural models and their attachments, model furniture, a stone altar, cosmetic containers and mortars, scale weights, stone containers, exotic geological samples, utilitarian tools, and miscellanea. This repertoire reflects a considerable variety of activities, comparable to the diversity seen at H̱orvat Qiṯmit. However, these sites cannot be considered comparable given the number of structures and activity areas at H̱orvat Qiṯmit, while all cultic activity in Stratum II was confined to the single structure at WT-13.

The differences in these assemblages are best seen among the zoomorphic figurines that are more numerous and more varied at both H̱orvat Qiṯmit and En Ḥaṣeva compared to WT-13 ([Charts 5.2–5.4](#)). Other objects, such as pomegranate attachments and ceramic swirls, are not found at WT-13. On the other hand, there are many more beads and a greater diversity of shells at WT-13 when compared to H̱orvat Qiṯmit ([Table 5C](#)).

When we compare the large corpus of plain ware pottery and the major categories of objects at WT-13, we can see that food consumption and food offerings account for much of the ceramic

repertoire. The exceptions are the tripod cups and miniature vessels, especially juglets, which may have contained scented oil to contribute pleasant odours to the ritual. The exotic vessel and the miniature bowls may have been used for individual food or drink offerings, comparable to the miniature bowls found in the potter's workshop of the Area H Orthostat Temple at Hazor (Daviau 1994:80; Yadin 1972:82; Yadin *et al.* 1961: pls. cxiii:2; cclxix:1–21). Other finds include the utilitarian equipment, such as textile tools, polishing stones, limestone containers, scale weights and stoppers. The remaining objects at WT-13 can all be grouped in a single functional class as votive offerings. This does not negate the possibility that some of the utilitarian objects were also offered by craftspeople as gifts to the shrine. In other instances, small objects, such as beads or seals may have been lost by visitors to the site. In view of this ambiguity, a brief discussion of the nature of votive offerings is appropriate.

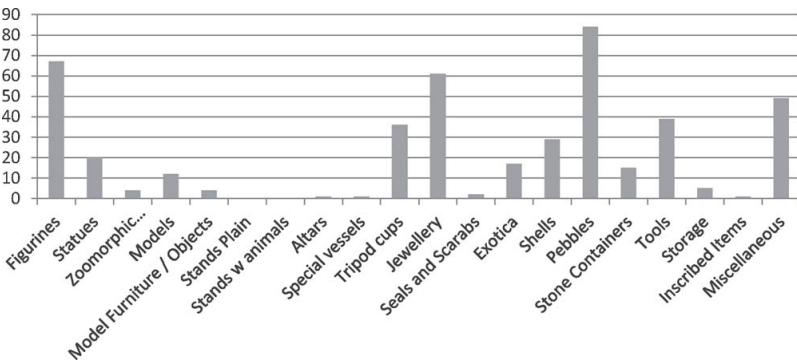


Chart 5.4. Object Types at WT-13

Table 5C. Summary of Equipment found at WT-13, Җorvat Qitmit and ҖEn ҖaҖeva1

<i>Features</i>	<i>WT-13</i>	<i>Horvat Qitmit</i>	<i>‘En Haseva</i>
Figurines / Statues	Anthropomorphic, few zoomorphic	Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic	Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic
Architectural Models and Altars	Various styles and attached figures, medium-size altar	Attached figures, miniature altar	Miniature altars
Objects	Jewellery+scarabs, shells, fossils, exotica, tools	Jewellery+seal, cowrie shells, pomegranates	Pomegranates
Ritual Vessels	Tripod cups	Tripod cups	Tripod cups, fenestrated stands
Pottery	Domestic pottery	Domestic pottery	Chalices
Miniature / Special vessels	Juglets and bowls	Bowls and painted vessels	Unknown ²
Special	Model Furniture, scale weights	Faunal	N/A

1 Adapted from Daviau 2012: Table 5. Full publication of the finds from Tall Damiyah is eagerly awaited.

2 To date, the pottery from the fortress has not been published (my thanks to L. Freud for this information, Feb. 8, 2016).

In his initial study of votive offerings, Frevel (2008:26) defines a votive as a gift to serve as a memorial of a major event and a thanksgiving for a positive result (Num 31:54). A votive may also have an intercessive function and serve as a perpetual prayer on the part of the donor. Since he sees no evidence for this type of religious behaviour in the descriptions of Jerusalem temple worship, he turns to archaeological evidence from other Late Bronze and Iron Age sites.

Frevel (2008:33–34) begins with a brief discussion of the finds in the Fosse Temple at Lachish, which was designed, and redesigned, with long benches running parallel to the side walls that served as supports for gifts (Tufnell *et al.* 1940: pls. lxvi–lxviii). The finds in the various phases of the temple consist of jewellery, scarabs and seals, amulets, high status items of gold, faience, glass, bone and ivory, ceramic and metal figurines, and the inscribed Lachish Ewer. What is unclear is whether certain of these objects represented the deity, were ritual equipment, or were merely utilitarian and did not function as votive offerings.³⁸

Such high-status gifts and metal figurines are missing at WT-13; there was only the base of a Late Iron II glazed Assyrian bottle and one gold and paste bead, the remaining beads were of bone, shell, carnelian and faience. Pottery consisted almost exclusively of plain wares, except for the imported and miniature

juglets and a handful of fine ware bowls ([Chapter 7](#)). What is missing from this assemblage, but found at neighbouring sites, are decorated cosmetic containers in alabaster and steatite, bronze and iron weapons and tools, ivory and bone objects. The cultural affinities reflected in the ceramic corpus and the material culture repertoire at WT-13 are discussed below ([Chapter 15](#)).

Notes

- 1 Artefacts are numbered sequentially (see [Chapter 2](#)) and are identified according to Field + square#:locus#/pottery pail # (for example, A2:23/34). Surface finds are identified by site:locus#/pail# (WT-13:0.5/40). For mendable items, see the online database for complete registration information. Measurements include L(ength), W(idth), T(hickness) D(iameter), Dpt (depth).
- 2 The lack of metal objects may be significant in view of the presence of metal artefacts at various temple sites, for example at Tel Miqne-Ekron (Dothan 2002). The only exception consists of an iron rod and a Roman period iron nail ([Chapter 13](#)).
- 3 The online database consists of 554 entries.
- 4 In this typology, each object has two levels of functionality; its precise function and the function implied by its presence in a larger assemblage and specific context.
- 5 For their understanding of the function of each class, see tables in Albertz and Schmitt (2012:72, 75).
- 6 Incrusted soil with high lime content made it difficult to clean this fragile amulet.
- 7 A thick plinth is shown on the back of a *Pataikos* amulet from Tomb ZR XIII at Akhziv (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 4.11:42). A second amulet, this one from Tomb ZR IX (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 4.7:105), is carved in the round; unfortunately, the back is not described.
- 8 This is seen quite clearly when amulets representing both Ptah and Bes are found together; compare amulets 67 and 69 from Tomb ZR XXIX and amulets 108 and 110 from Tomb ZR XXXVI at Akhziv (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: figs. 4.21 and 4.27, respectively). Paice (2004:69) identifies Bes as the god with a lion's mane and tail in contrast to Ptah-Sokar, who is clean shaven.

9 Giveon (1978:92) identifies a winged goddess on a seal from Akko as Astarte who appears in this scene with Ptah, although as shown above, it may be Isis who serves as a protective deity.

10 A fragment from the recent excavations of Ussishkin also has a plinth behind the legs (Sass 2004: fig. 28:17:7).

11 The use of *conus* whorls as beads is seen also in northern Syria, for example at Tell el-Fakhariyah (McEwan *et al.* 1958: pl. 44:27).

12 A scarab from Qau in the Petrie collection is also attributed to this queen (Gitton 1981:40, n. 201).

13 Originally identified as limestone (not “sandstein”, Eggler and Keel 2006:486), this scarab is more likely to be glazed steatite.

14 A number of scholars have clarified the distinction between “cultic stands” (fenestrated and plain), tall tower stands carrying iconography, and architectural models (Muller 2002:10–12; Zevit 2001:316; de Miroschedji 2001:48–51; Daviau 2008:293).

15 In the database, the depth of rectangular models from front to back is listed in the “length” field; width and height are the measurements of the façade or the longest preserved side.

16 Muller (1995: fig. 1) illustrates two models from Syria that represent structures with a main floor and an upper storey room; however, on the lower storey there is no indication of a floor.

17 This Louvre acquisition is without provenience, but apparently comes from Syria (Margueron 1985:167).

18 Two-storied models from Syria share many similarities with architectural models from Aššur (Khayata 1974–1975: fig. 6), including an upper storey in position only above the back room of the model and rope decoration on the outer walls (for example, Muller 1995: fig. 2:2). Khayata (1974–1975: fig. 7) illustrates a seal impression that shows one of these models being used as an altar, with an incense cup on the roof of the lower storey, and an offering in place on the roof of the upper storey. This image corresponds to the discovery of architectural models in the Ištar Temple at Aššur (Andrae 1922: pl. 13–17).

19 A ceramic figure (WT 179) with an elongated shape and clay extending from its back may also have been a component of a model (see [Chapter 4](#), above). Its elongated form is reminiscent of the attached figures on the doorframe of a model from Tall al- Umayri (Roth 2003).

20 These models are distinct from pot shrines that are completely enclosed except for a single opening on one side, often with an attached door (Nissinen and Münger 2009: figs. 4:2, 5). These “models” also have a base or floor, similar to lanterns.

21 For example, a model from Tall Munbāqa (Machule 1998: fig. 150) and three models from Tall Dayr ʿAlla (Franken 1992: figs. 3-8:12, 4-24:14, 5-8:30) are all described as fenestrated pots.

22 Colour photographs of the forming details are included in the online archive.

23 This motif also appears on vessels in later periods, for example the snake krater from Isthmia (Fraser 1971: fig. 11).

24 A serpent figurine, mounted on a supporting base/stand, was also included among the “cult objects” at Beth Shean (Rowe 1940: pl. xi:15 = liia:5).

25 Initially registered as ceramic samples, these fragments later were assigned object numbers.

26 An exhaustive study of the use of the serpent in iconography and its psychological attraction and cultic importance to peoples of various cultures throughout history is presented by Mundkur (1983).

27 There is no description of this artefact in the report and the only published photograph is not clear.

28 Bronze cobras were present in cultic assemblages at Gezer (Macalister 1912: fig. 488) and Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 240:4).

29 For complete details, see Reese 2002.

30 Attempts have been made to show these tool marks in the online photos by B. A. Haberstroh.

31 A basalt ring base sherd is evidence of another finely made vessel (WT 338; A2:53/89).

32 Paper presented at the Annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Nov. 18, 2015.

33 I am grateful to Christian Frevel (Ruhr Universität Bochum) for this insight.

34 Just like sherds with a potter’s mark, reworked sherds were assigned a tech number.

35 Only the best examples are discussed in the text; additional examples along with worn or badly broken whorls are included in the online archive.

36 This number does not include WT 276.

37 Observation of Heidi Wilson.

38 The large number of bronze male figurines in the Obelisk Temple and the Field of Offerings at Byblos (more than 700; Negbi 1976:22, 26) certainly suggests that they were votive gifts similar in shape to the official deity statue. Given that most metal figurines were small (most are less than 20.0 cm tall), the recognition of the official divine figurine remains difficult.

WT-13 pottery and the Central Jordan tradition

Margreet L. Steiner

In 2002, a new project started at Leiden University: the analysis of the Iron Age pottery of Mudayna Thamad excavated in 1996–2004. Because of WT-13's close proximity to that site and its similar dating to the Iron Age, the excavator sent some sherds of WT-13 to Leiden for comparison with the Mudayna Thamad pottery (Steiner 2006). All in all, 468 diagnostic Iron Age sherds of WT-13, excavated in the 1997–2001 seasons, were studied in Leiden. These sherds came mostly from the surface and the upper layers, which contained pottery from all periods of activity on the site. This collection of pottery will therefore be treated as a random sample.

The sherds were studied in cooperation with the Laboratory for Ceramic Studies of Leiden University. A first classification of the rims was devised based on shape, function, and finish of the sherds. A distinction could be made between shapes that were comparable with the Mudayna Thamad repertoire and could thus be dated to the end of the Iron Age ('late repertoire'), and other shapes dated earlier, to the Iron I or the beginning of the Iron II

periods ('early repertoire'). Many sherds were too small or too damaged to assign them to one of the two groups or they were 'loners'. They are labelled undet(etermined) in [Table 6A](#).

This report will focus on some technological aspects of the pottery repertoire, a typology and dating of the sherds. The corpus will be compared with published material from Central Jordan, in particular the sites of Tall Dayr ʿAlla in the Jordan Valley, Khirbat al-Lahun on the northern rim of the Wadi Mujib and Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya in the Karak region, as well as with the unpublished pottery from Mudayna Thamad that is currently being studied by the author, in an attempt to set the WT-13 pottery in the Central Jordanian tradition.

Table 6A. Number of sherds studied

<i>Vessel types</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Undet.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cooking pots (CP)	44	8	14	66
Small bowls (SB)	26	21	19	66
Medium bowls (MB)	105	47	35	187
Bowls undetermined			67	67
Kraters (KR)	16	11		27
Storage Jars (StJ)			3	3
Jars and Jugs (JJ)		33	4	52
<i>Total</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>468</i>

Some technical aspects of the pottery repertoire

Analysis of construction technique and fabric

A sample of 18 sherds (4 cooking pots, 12 bowls and 2 kraters) was selected for a low-tech fabric analysis. The sherds were studied by Mr. Loe Jacobs, potter of the Laboratory for Ceramic Studies of Leiden University. It turned out that all sherds selected were produced on a fast wheel. These sherds were cut by hand to get a first impression of their hardness. They were then re-fired

under oxidizing conditions at a temperature of 750°C. The colour was noted, and the fabric of the sherd was analyzed under a binocular microscope. It was not always possible to distinguish between the clay matrix and the added temper, as mineral inclusions may have been part of the clay.

Two fabric groups could be distinguished.

1) The cooking pots were made of clay tempered with crystalline calcite. One cooking pot was tempered with additional flint, limestone and basalt and may have come from a different region or workshop.

2) The other vessels were all made with limestone (calcium) as the dominant inclusion in the fabric. Some sherds had additional ostracoda (fossilized crustacea), which is a specific characteristic of the Mudayna Thamad material.

Two vessels were made in a different fabric. One medium bowl contained basaltic rock fragments and iron oxide concretions as the main inclusions, while the fabric of a small bowl showed calcite and basalt.

In general the two fabric groups are very well comparable to the fabric groups described for the pottery of the town of Mudayna Thamad (Steiner 2009). This should come as no surprise as the two sites are only 3 km apart. The only difference between the fabrics of WT-13 and Mudayna Thamad is that the four analysed cooking pots of WT-13 are all tempered with crystalline calcite. This temper was not used at Mudayna Thamad. The explanation for this is that three of the four analysed cooking pots belong to the early repertoire. In the late Iron I and the beginning of the Iron II periods, cooking pots were in general tempered with calcite. It is only in the late part of Iron II that other material was used for temper, such as sand and finely divided calcium (London and Shuster 2011; Franken and Steiner 1990:106–107). The fourth cooking pot was a Late Iron II cooking pot and it is surprising to find that it was tempered with calcite as none of the analyzed Mudayna Thamad Late Iron II cooking pots showed that temper. It

is possible that this cooking pot does not come from Mudayna Thamad itself but from another site in the region. Or maybe some Mudayna Thamad cooking pots were also tempered with calcite but this didn't show up in analysis of the Mudayna Thamad repertoire.

Surface treatment

Except for three sherds the only observed surface treatment consisted of smoothing (with a cloth). The exceptions were a 'late' medium bowl that had a slip that was pale yellow after refiring (2.5YR 8/2), a 'late' medium bowl which was red slipped and burnished, and a plate with traces of burnishing inside.

Colour

As the colour of a sherd is the result of several factors combined such as fabric, firing temperature and conditions, use, and post-depositional processes (see also Franken and Steiner 1990:86–87), it is only very generally noted in this report; codes in the figures were assigned in Waterloo.

General typology and dating of the rim sherds

A distinction could be made between shapes that were comparable to the Mudayna Thamad repertoire and thus date to the end of the Iron Age II ('late repertoire') and shapes, dating to the Iron I and the beginning of the Iron II periods ('early repertoire'). As only rim sherds were available, the following is a rim typology. It is not always possible to ascertain the full shape of the vessel or how it was made.

Early repertoire

The early material ([Fig. 6.1](#)) has been compared with that of three sites nearby of which the pottery has been published: Khirbat al-Lahun on the northern plateau of the Wadi Mujib; Khirbat al-

Mudayna al-ʿAliya, located on the eastern edge of the Karak Plateau; and Tall Dayr ʿAlla in the Jordan Valley. Khirbat al-Lahun was occupied only at the beginning of the Iron I period, roughly the 12th century BC (Steiner 2013), while Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya showed remains of the last part of the Iron I period and the beginning of Iron II, the late 11th and early 10th centuries BC (Routledge 2008). Tall Dayr ʿAlla was continuously occupied throughout the Iron I and II periods (Franken 1969), with Iron Age phases A–D belonging to the beginning of Iron I (12th and first half of 11th centuries BC) and phases E–L dating to the latter half of Iron I and the beginning of Iron II (second half of the 11th and the 10th centuries BC). For more comparative material, see van der Steen (2004).

Cooking pots (CP) (Fig. 6.1:1–10)

Most cooking pots had a flanged rim (36 out of the 44 rims). Half of these were vessels with a rim diameter of 16–18 cm (CPa), the other half were rims of smaller, thinner pots (CPb). Several rims belonged to cooking jugs with simple rims (CPc) or to ridged-rim cooking vessels (CPd).

CPa (18×) has a flanged rim and is made of course ware. The colour ranges from pale brown to dark red to dark gray. The diameter of the mouth is 16–18 cm.

CPb (18×) is smaller and thinner than CPa, has a smaller flange and a bright reddish colour. The fragments are too small to establish the diameter of the mouth. Two sherds were analysed, and both were tempered with calcite.

CPc (5×) may be a jug. It has a simple folded rim with a diameter of 10–14 cm. The colour is very pale brown to red.

CPd (3×) is a wide, open cooking pot with a ridged rim but no neck and a diameter of 24–32 cm. The colour is reddish gray.

Comparison and dating of the cooking pots

Parallels for cooking pots CPa and CPc are not difficult to find. For the flanged form (CPa), parallels are found at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAlīya where the narrow/deep cooking pot with a flanged rim (their type 2a) is the most common form. At Tall Dayr ʿAlla, the late type 3 cooking pot has a flanged and ridged rim. This pot occurs from Iron Age Phase G onwards. At Khirbat al-Lahun, no small deep cooking pots have been found. A parallel for CPc (cooking jug) can be found only at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAlīya in the narrow/deep cooking pot type 2. This type of cooking pot has not been found at Khirbat al-Lahun and Tall Dayr ʿAlla.

Parallels for CPd (wide, open vessel) occur only sporadically in the region. At Khirbat al-Lahun and Tall Dayr ʿAlla this type has not been found. A possible parallel may be found in the wide/shallow cooking pots at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAlīya (type 3), although the rim is slightly different. In any case, only one vessel of this type was found at that site.

I have found no parallels for the small vessels of CPb so far. They look like miniature cooking pots and may have been used for special dishes, special rituals or as votive objects. At WT-13 a variety of miniature vessels has been found – see Chapter 7. On the basis of these parallels the cooking pots of the early repertoire of WT-13 can be dated to the Late Iron I and Early Iron II periods (late 11th–10th centuries BC).

Small bowls (SB) (Fig. 6.1:11–13)

Small bowls are thin-walled bowls with a diameter of 16–22 cm. About half of the 26 small bowls studied consisted of rounded bowls, some with simple rounded rims (SBa) and some with flattened rims (SBb). The other small bowls were carinated and had simple rounded rims (SBc). Three of these rim sherds may have belonged to lamps, but this is difficult to ascertain because of the small size of the sherds.

SBa (8×) is a small rounded bowl with a simple rounded rim and a diameter of 16–20 cm. The colour ranges from very pale

brown to light gray.

SBb (4×) is a small rounded bowl with a flattened rim. The diameter of the rims that could be measured ranged from 20–22 cm, so they seem to be a bit larger than *SBa*. The colour is the same: very pale brown to light gray.

SBC (14×) is a carinated bowl with a simple rounded rim, with a diameter of 18–22 cm and a very pale brown to light gray colour.

Comparison and dating of the small bowls

Both rounded and carinated small bowls occur widely in the LB and Iron I. At Khirbat al-Lahun most small bowls were carinated and not rounded. At Tall Dayr ʿAlla, carinated bowls are much more frequent in the earlier Iron Age phases A–C than in the later phases D–F, and they disappear after phase G, while rounded bowls were found in all Iron Age phases A–L. This trend seems to indicate that carinated bowls belong to the beginning of Iron I. However, at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya both rounded and carinated small bowls are common.

As carinated and rounded bowls each form about half of WT-13's repertoire of small bowls, Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya may be the best parallel, which would corroborate the dating attested for the cooking pots. However, it cannot be ruled out that some carinated small bowls may be a bit earlier.

Medium bowls (Fig. 6.1:14–21)

The largest group of vessels (105×) consisted of medium-sized bowls. These are thicker and deeper than small bowls and have a diameter from 22–46 cm. About half of these bowls were rounded bowls with simple rounded rims (*MBa*), while most of the others were carinated and had a rounded rim (*MBc*). A minority consisted of rounded bowls with flattened rims (*MBb*).

MBa (46×) is a large rounded bowl with a simple rounded rim.

The diameter of the mouth is 24–30 cm and the colours range from very pale brown to light red. Outside and inside are smoothed. None are burnished or slipped. One has a ledge handle; the other fragments have no handles.

MBb (14×) is a rounded deep bowl with a flattened rim. The diameter is in the range of 24–34 cm and the colours range from very pale brown to light red. One has a ledge handle; the other fragments have no handles.

MBc (45×) is a deep carinated bowl with a simple rounded rim. The diameter ranges from 32–46 cm, and the colours from very pale brown to light red. Only one sherd had a round handle; the other fragments had no handles.

Comparison and dating of the medium bowls

Rounded bowls with simple rounded rims (MBa) are very common in Iron I and are sometimes called Manasseh bowls. Parallels in the region are found at Khirbat al-Lahun (bowl type B5) and Tall Dayr 𐤀𐤊𐤋𐤏 (bowl type 13), occurring at the latter site frequently both at the beginning and at the end of Iron I (Iron Age phases A–E and K and L). At Khirbat al-Mudayna al-𐤀𐤊𐤋𐤏 parallels are bowl types 1a and 1b, according to the description (although the published drawings are of small bowls only).

For MBb (rounded bowls with flattened rims) there are fewer parallels. At Khirbat al-Lahun rounded bowls with flattened rims do occur, but the shape of the vessel is different (wider and shallower), while Khirbat al-Mudayna al-𐤀𐤊𐤋𐤏 shows some rounded medium bowls with flattened rim (type 1c), but these have a groove on top of the rim. At Tall Dayr 𐤀𐤊𐤋𐤏, however, this rim occurs throughout the Iron Age phase B–L (bowl types 7, 10 and 11).

Parallels for the large carinated bowls with a diameter of over 30 cm (MBc) do occur at Khirbat al-Lahun, although not frequently. However, this bowl (Lahun type B3) has ledge handles, while MBc has rounded handles. At Tall Dayr 𐤀𐤊𐤋𐤏 the parallel is

Deep Bowl types 3c and 3d. Tall Dayr Alla type 3c occurs mainly in the beginning of Iron I (phases A–D), while type 3d is the most common form throughout the whole period. At Khirbat al-Mudayna al-Aliya carinated bowls are common; the narrowed carinated bowl (KMA type 3) “has a slightly inward sloping rim that causes the diameter at the rim to be narrower than at the carination point”. This applies also for the WT-13 carinated medium bowls, MBc. The medium bowls can thus only be dated very generally to the Iron I and the beginning of the Iron II periods.

Kraters, smaller jars and jugs

A box with this material was mislaid during rehousing of the collection. They are included in the online database, but were not yet typed; for other examples, see [Chapter 3](#).

Figure 6.1. The Early Repertoire[2](#)

COOKING POTS, TYPE CPA

1. (A2/12.17). Folded rim; D 18.0 cm;[3](#) sent to IAT.[4](#)
2. (A2/54.23). Folded rim; D 15.5 cm; sent to IAT.
3. (A1/10.6). Triangular rim; D 14(?) cm; Leiden.
4. (A1/31.5). Folded rim; D 18.5 cm; sent to IAT.

COOKING POTS, TYPE CPB

5. (A1/39.6). Thickened rim with rib; D 10.0 cm; reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
6. (A4/7.8). Thickened ribbed rim, biconical pot; D 12(?) cm; sent to IAT.

COOKING POTS, TYPE CPC

7. (A5/15.14). Triangular rim; D 10.0 cm; sent to IAT.
8. (A6/6.1). Triangular rim; D 13.0 cm

COOKING POTS, TYPE CPD

9. (A3/15.4). Thickened ribbed rim; D 30.0 cm; sent to IAT.
10. (A5/12.14). Thickened ribbed rim; D 23.0 cm; Leiden.

SMALL BOWLS, TYPE SBA

11. (A4/12.12) Thickened rim; D 18.0 cm; gray (7.5YR 6/1) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/2) exterior; cut mark in lip.

SMALL BOWLS, TYPE SBC

12. (A5/10.14). Carinated bowl; D 19.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.
13. (A10/100.30). Carinated bowl; D 20 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

MEDIUM BOWLS, TYPE MBA

14. (A5/12.23). Thickened rim; D 22.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
15. (R13/16.4). Hemispherical bowl; D 23.5 cm;; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) exterior.
16. (A2/1.18). Thickened rim; D 22.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
17. (A5/6.4). Bent-sided bowl; D 17.5 cm; light gray (10YR 7/1) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) interior.

MEDIUM BOWLS, TYPE MBB

18. (A2/71.9). Flattened rim; D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) slip.
19. (A2/40.20). Flat triangular rim; D 18.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

MEDIUM BOWLS, TYPE MBC

20. (A5/12.12). Carinated bowl; D 37.0 cm; sent to IAT.
21. (A4/3.2). Carinated bowl; D 29.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.

Dating of the early repertoire

The best parallels for WT-13's cooking pots come from Khirbat al-Mudayna al-**Ⲛ**Aliya (for CPa, c and d) and in the late phases of Tall Dayr **Ⲛ**Alla (for CPa). Small bowls are not very distinctive nor very precisely datable. Both rounded and carinated small bowls occur in the LB and Iron I. At Khirbat al-Lahun only carinated small bowls were found, while at Tall Dayr **Ⲛ**Alla carinated bowls occur much more frequent in the earlier Iron Age phases and disappear after phase G. This would suggest that carinated bowls date to the earlier part of Iron I. However, at Khirbat al-Mudayna al-**Ⲛ**Aliya, both rounded and carinated small bowls are common. Thus fine-tuning the dating of the small bowls of WT-13 is difficult, but a date in Late Iron I and the beginning of Iron II is not unreasonable.

The same applies to the medium-sized bowls. These are common throughout the region in Iron I and the beginning of Iron II, but hard to date more precisely. The best parallels come from Khirbat al-Mudayna al-**Ⲛ**Aliya and Tall Dayr **Ⲛ**Alla (both in the early and late phases).

Thus the comparison of the WT-13's early material with the regional repertoires of Khirbat al-Lahun, Khirbat al-Mudayna al-**Ⲛ**Aliya and Tall Dayr **Ⲛ**Alla clearly shows that a dating in the second half of Iron I and the beginning of Iron II, generally the 11th and 10th centuries BC, is most likely. The cooking pots are certainly to be dated to that period, while the small and medium-sized bowls do not contradict this dating.

Late repertoire

Of the 468 sherds studied, 120 could with certainty be assigned to the late repertoire. Most of these sherds were very similar to the Mudayna Thamad (henceforth MT) repertoire and could easily be fitted into the pottery typology of that site. A short description of these types follows below.

Cooking pots (Fig. 6.2:1–3)

A total of eight sherds of cooking pots could be assigned to the late repertoire. Almost all were of MT type 1, a square-rimmed cooking pot with no neck and two handles. The rim diameter is 10–16 cm and the colour ranges from greyish brown to pink to dark red. One sherd was analyzed and turned out to be tempered with crystalline calcite, a temper not used at Mudayna Thamad in Iron II (as far as the analyses show).

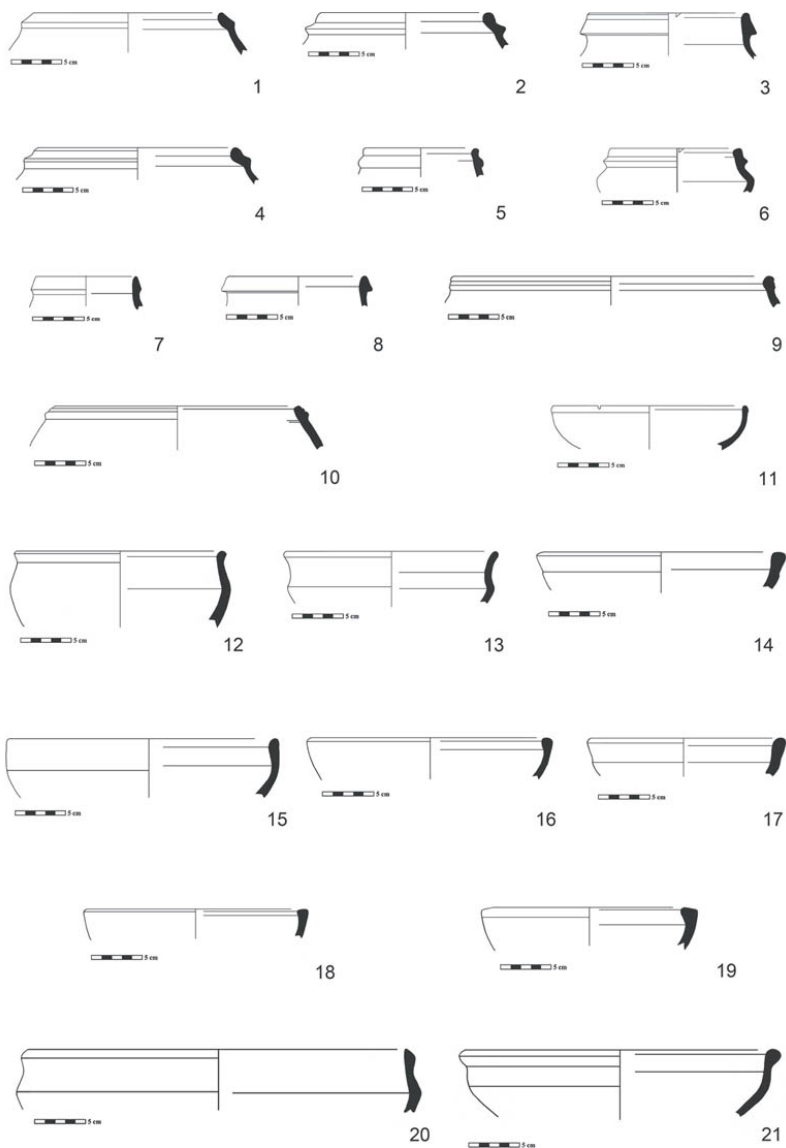


Figure 6.1. The Early repertoire: 1–4) CPa; 5–6) CPb; 7–8) CPc; 9–10) CPd; 11) SBa; 12–13) SBc; 14–17) MBa; 18–19) MBb; 20–21) MBc

One sherd belonged to MT type CP2, a thick-walled pot with no neck and a thickened rim with a small ridge on the outside. Diameter of the rim is 10–14 cm and the colour is greyish brown.

Small bowls (Fig. 6.2:4–7)

Among the late material were 21 sherds of small bowls. Half of these were of MT type SB5, with a flattened rim, while five bowls had a simple rounded rim (MT SB4). Three sherds were of a flat plate/saucer with a simple rounded rim (MT SB7), one of which had traces of burnishing inside. All small bowls are simple undecorated vessels.

Medium bowls (Fig. 6.2:8–9)

A total of 47 rims were of medium bowls, all MT type MB4. This is a deep bowl with a thickened rim. Two sherds were analyzed; both were tempered with limestone of microfossil origin.

Kraters (Fig. 6.2:10–11)

Kraters are thick-walled, deep bowls, with a diameter of 24–30 cm. Eleven kraters could be assigned to the late repertoire, ten of which were MT type KR1, a large four-handled vessel with a folded rim and a small ring base. One sherd was analyzed that was tempered with limestone of micro fossil origin and ostracoda, a characteristic of the MT repertoire. One sherd belonged to MT type KR4, with a flattened rim and a low flange.

Jars and jugs (Fig. 6.2:12–16)

Of the jars and jugs, 33 rims could be assigned to the late repertoire, of which 19 (almost 60%) were of MT type JJ1, the most common type at Mudayna Thamad. This jar has a short neck, sometimes ridged, and a rounded or slightly flattened rim. Five rims were MT JJ2, a thin neckless jar or jug; eight were MT JJ3, a thin-walled jug or juglet with a ridged neck, and one example was MT JJ4, a juglet with a simple rounded rim.

Figure 6.2. The Late Repertoire

COOKING POTS, TYPE CP

1. (A2/58.1). Square rim; D 10.5 cm.
2. (A1/26.2). Square rim; D 15.5 cm; sent to IAT.

COOKING POTS, TYPE CP

3. (A2/28.11). Rolled rim; D 12.6 cm; sent to IAT.

SMALL BOWLS, SB

4. (13R/16.1) Triangular rim; D 17.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior
5. (A1/14.3). Flattened rim; D 21.5 cm; very pale brown fabric (10YR 7/3), weak red (10R 5/4) slip, badly worn.

SMALL BOWLS, SB

6. (A5/7.10). Thickened rim; D 18.0 cm; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

SMALL BOWLS, SB

7. (A2/93.7). Saucer; D 18.3 cm; gray (2.5Y 5/1) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) interior.

MEDIUM BOWLS, MB

8. (A2/87.4) Triangular rim; D 32.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.
9. (A1/16.5). Triangular rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.

KRATERS, KR

10. (A2/1.21). Inverted rim; D 34.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
11. (A2/16.13). Inverted rim; D 42.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

JARS/JUGS, JJ

12. (A2/54.18). Triangular rim; D 6.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.
13. (A1/19.15). Triangular rim; D 8.0 cm; gray fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 6/2) exterior.
14. (13R/46.1). Thickened rim; D 9.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.
15. (13R/15.7). Grooved rim; D 7.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3–8/2) fabric and exterior.
16. (A1/38.1). Ribbed rim; D 8.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

Dating of the late repertoire

The late repertoire is very similar to the Mudayna Thamad repertoire both in type and fabric and can thus be dated to the 8th and 7th centuries BC. One can safely assume that WT-13 was in use when Mudayna Thamad was inhabited and that it was used for specific rituals by the inhabitants of Mudayna, who brought their own pottery. Alternatively, people may have come from a wider area but bought the pottery they needed from local potters.

Of course the pottery may also have come from other sites in the region such as al-Rumayl (see [Chapter 14](#), [Figs. 14.13](#), [14.14](#)), but the ceramic fabric from that site has not been analysed in detail.

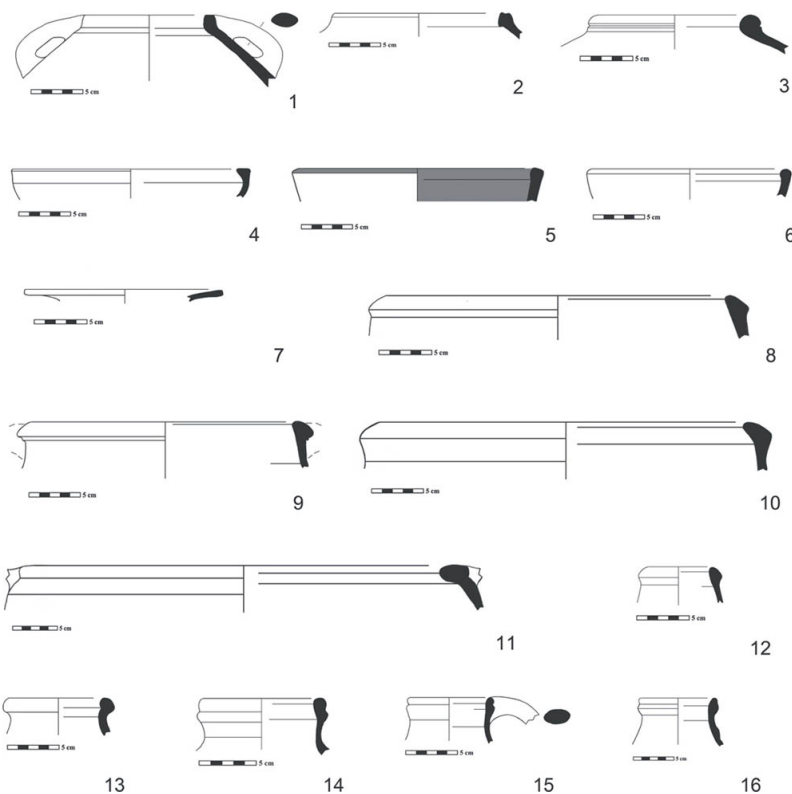


Figure 6.2. The Late repertoire: 1–2) CP1, 3) CP2; 4–5) SB5; 6) SB4; 7) SB7; 8–9) MB4; 10–11) KR1; 12–13) JJ1; 14–16) JJ3

WT-13 in its Central Jordan setting

This study shows that the household pottery of both the early and late repertoires of WT-13 was locally made and stood firmly in the pottery tradition of Central Jordan. The early repertoire can be best compared to the pottery of Khirbat al-Mudayna al-ʿAliya and Tall Dayr ʿAlla, while the late material is very similar in ware and shape to the Mudayna Thamad pottery, and probably came from that site.

Activities performed on the site

As shown in [Table 6B](#) most of the rims of this random sample of

WT-13 pottery consist of vessels for serving food: small and medium bowls, kraters, small jars and jugs. Almost no storage vessels were included and no lamps, apart for three *possible* rim sherds. Even though the sherds presented in this report do not come from sealed contexts, the composition of the repertoires is remarkable. In the early repertoire 21% of the rims consist of cooking vessels while 79% comes from serving vessels. In the late repertoire the cooking element is less important (7%), with 93% of the vessels consisting of serving vessels.

Table 6B. Functional analysis of the pottery

<i>Vessel types</i>	<i>Total no. sherds</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Undet.</i>
Cooking vessels	66 (14%)	44 (21%)	8 (7%)	14
Serving vessels (bowls, kraters, small jars and jugs)	399 (85%)	162 (79%)	112 (93%)	125
Storage vessels	3 (<1%)	0	0	3
Lamps	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>468</i> <i>(100%)</i>	<i>206</i> <i>(100%)</i>	<i>120</i> <i>(100%)</i>	<i>142</i>

This means that in the early phase of occupation of the site (Stratum III) cooking is an important element of the activities on the site (cultic or not), which concurs with the presence of four cooking installations. It has to be noted, however, that the cooking pots from this phase are not very large and could not have been used for large amounts of meat or stews. Maybe the cooking installations were used for the roasting of meat and the preparation of bread, while in the cooking vessels sauces or broth were prepared.

In the later (certainly cultic) phase (Stratum II), the activities performed consisted almost entirely of the serving and

consumption of food. No cooking installations were found in this phase, but cooking vessels could have been used to serve food that was prepared elsewhere.

Notes

- 1 After several hundreds of years of abandonment a fortress was built there at the end of the Iron Age.
- 2 In the Catalogues, the rim form designations are harmonized with those in [Chapter 3](#) and with the Madaba Plains Project terminology as adjusted for the Tall Jawa and Mudayna Thamad pottery assemblages.
- 3 Measurement represents the interior diameter.
- 4 University of Leiden, Laboratory for Ceramic Studies.

Tripod cups, miniature and specialized vessels

P. M. Michèle Daviau

Introduction

Several categories of ceramic vessels can be classed as specialized or ritual vessels. These include tripod cups, miniature vessels, Cypro-Phoenician style juglets and other imported vessels, a libation vessel and certain painted sherds whose symbolism may be related to the rituals carried on at the shrine.

Tripod cups

From Stratum II and the disturbed surface layer of Stratum I, we identified 221 tripod cup sherds and of the diagnostic rims, bodies and bases, 87 were perforated. The cups have a rounded rim with a vertical, inward sloping, or flaring stance and a single handle. In a number of cases, the base is sufficiently well preserved so that all three feet are attached, in other instances their scars remain. The body sherds which have perforations ([Table 7A](#)) show clearly that these were formed pre-firing and some are incompletely holed. A number of partial perforations and blocked holes do not seem to have affected the usefulness of the cups themselves.

The cups were wheel made in a wide variety of fabrics that resulted in soft levigated thick-walled cups, crisp thin-walled ones and vessels of porous clay with numerous inclusions. To the degree possible, this study will present a formal typology and plot the distribution of the cups in Stratum II.

Criteria

Tripod cups are small vessels in the form of one-handled cups supported on three peg feet. Although two styles are known from sites in central Jordan (perforated and unperforated), the tripod cups from WT-13 may all have been perforated. The body is punctured below the rim with two or more horizontal rows of small holes. Given the number of tripod cup sherds from WT-13,¹ there is considerable variation in fabric, rim form and stance. In most instances, the base is gently rounded and the three peg feet are attached at the point where the body joins the base.

Function

The discovery of ceramic cups with three peg feet and perforated sides at numerous sites in Israel, Jordan and Lebanon has resulted in considerable scholarly discussion. Initially, these small vessels were identified as “perforated tripod cups” or “incense cups” (Zwicker 1990). More recently, the function of these cups has been tied up with the discussion surrounding the incense trade during the Late Iron Age. However, the lack of soot on many of these cups and the complete lack of holes in others have raised questions about their actual function (Daviau 2001c). The domestic, cultic and funerary contexts in which such cups are found suggest that they were multifunctional. At the same time, it is clear from the occurrence of late Iron Age II and early Persian period stone incense altars that aromatics were used in religious rituals in the home and in other contexts (Pritchard 1972; Daviau 2007:134–139, 142–143). These small altars of carved limestone with a

single central depression for burning incense were designed with a shallow depression so that the smoke rose heavenward.

The case of the deep perforated cup is challenging because there are no parallels for which there is incontrovertible evidence that can be cited pointing to their function. This dilemma can be seen in the assemblages from Kuntillet Ajrud, a site with religious iconography but not one perforated cup (Ayalon 2012), and Tall al-Khalayfa, a fortified site with only one figurine but nine perforated and two fenestrated cups (Pratico 1993: pls. 15:17; 29:1-9, 11-12).

When we look farther afield for evidence of hand-held containers for burning aromatics and/or resinous incense in cultic contexts, we find numerous examples in Egyptian iconography. The most common scene is that of Pharaoh holding the arm of Horus and offering incense in front of a statue of the deity. This type of arm has a small conical cup to contain the pellets of incense and terminates in an open hand holding a small bowl. From the area of Heliopolis, a broken stela retains a well preserved depiction of Horemheb offering incense and water to Khepri. Three tall flames are seen rising on an angle from the small bowl holding the incense at the end of the offering arm (Hawass 2008:99). This scene becomes a standard for later pharaohs who are shown performing a variety of cultic actions. One such scene is preserved in the Great Temple at Abu Simbel and shows Ramesses II offering incense to the sacred boat of Amun (Zecchi 2004: pls. 86-87). Comparable scenes also appear on the walls of the rear cella, where Ramesses offers incense to the sacred boat and, in one scene, incense is offered to an image of himself standing behind the boat. In another instance, Ramesses makes an offering to Min (Zecchi 2004: pls. 104, 105). In each of these illustrations, Ramesses holds an incense arm with a small bowl in the hand. Smoke rises from the bowl, but there is no indication that it is perforated. Better documented are the more than 500 scenes on Greco-Roman monuments, which illustrate and describe

the act of offering incense to the deity (Cauville 2012:34–38). In several of these texts, Punt is mentioned as the source of the resin.

Table 7A. Registration of technically-modified sherds

<i>Registration #</i>
96/18025
96/18075.20
96/18085.19
972:180740
972:18074.26
972:18074
971:1805416
972:180643.1
972:18074
972:180816.15
97:61809
972:18146
972:18146
972:18148
972:18148
972:18145
972:181745
972:181438
972:182734
972:18212.12
972:18213
972:182740
971:18281
971:3829/30.1
971:3839/30.2
972:18321
972:18331
972:1834
972:1835
972:1836
972:1838
982:186450

~~982:1381/37~~

~~982:1381/49~~

~~983:118/47~~

~~015:18930.2~~

~~015:18930~~

~~012:18076.14~~

~~012:18076.10~~

~~012:18076~~

~~012:180876.11~~

~~015:18909.1~~

~~016:139709~~

~~012:180769.3~~

~~012:180769.2~~

~~011:125138.7~~

~~011:1251485~~

~~015:183620.1~~

~~015:183720.2~~

~~012:1839100.9~~

~~038:1180211~~

~~032:13305104.1~~

~~031:1330768.21~~

~~037:118086~~

~~032:14309103.26~~

~~031:132180.1~~

~~036:18395~~

~~034:183227~~

~~037:185413~~

~~031:133155.20~~

~~031:13316102.19~~

~~031:13317102.20~~

~~039:183828~~

Priests and deceased persons are also depicted holding the same style of incense burner. On the north wall of the inner room of the tomb of Nefer-Hotep (TT 49), the chief scribe of Amun at Thebes, a priest holds an incense burner in the shape of an arm

while making an offering in the temple of Amun at Karnak; on the east wall there is also a priest offering incense before the tomb (Davies 1933: pls. 41, 24, respectively). In earlier 18th Dynasty reliefs, a man holding an incense spoon in the shape of a human arm and hand adds incense to a small bowl nestled in the hand. A flame rising from the bowl indicates that the incense is burning (Tomb of Rekh-mi-rē, TT 100; Davies 1943: pl. 38). In all of these depictions, the container holding the incense is an open mouthed vessel with flames rising upwards.

Another style of burner appears on the wall of a niche above the funerary stela of Nefer-hotep. In this scene, Nefer-hotep himself holds a chalice-shaped burner/lamp and offers prayers (Davies 1933: pl. 28). The same style of burner/lamp is also illustrated in the Tomb of Rekh-mi-rē (Davies 1943: pl. 97) and on a depiction of the siege of Ashkelon on a relief in the Temple of Amun at Karnak (Mazar 1990: fig. 7.1). The use of chalices for offering aromatic and “psycho-active compounds” has recently been studied and residue analysis has confirmed their function as burners; at least in Philistine settlements. The chalices from Tell es-Safi/Gath and Nahal Patish yielded lipids which provided evidence for the presence of trimyrustin, apparently a hallucinogenic plant compound (Gadot *et al.* 2014: 71).

Closer to home we find a number of stone bowls/spoons with a tubular extension or pipe. Several of these bowls are decorated with a hand carved on the bottom, such as the one from Tall Dayr Alla (van der Kooij and Ibrahim 1989: pl. 98). Another example, this time of a steatite bowl with a lion’s head and an ornate proto-Aeolic design on the bottom, comes from Tell Beit Mirsim (2165; Albright 1943:71–72; pl. 28:1–3=pl. 59). In his extensive discussion of similar objects found at Megiddo (May 1935: pl. xvii: M 4303, 4606), Albright (1943:70–72) makes use of the examples from a cemetery near Carchemish (Younous, Merdj Khamis), from Zincirli, the region around Aleppo and sites in the Amuq published by Przeworski (1930: pls. 24:1, 3; fig. 4) and mentions various

proposed functional designations, finally deciding that these objects were “pipe bowls” used to inhale incense for “therapeutic purposes”. Although Albright sees a direct continuity with the Late Bronze Age arm-shaped incense burners used in Egyptian rituals, he did not posit the same function for the stone pipe bowl from Tell Beit Mirsim. Another example, described as an “incense ladle”, was recovered in Room 3164 to the east of the Area B Citadel at Hazor (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. ccxxxiii:1).

Another form of vessel is represented by shallow fire pans from the Yavneh favissa (Kletter and Ziffer 2010: figs. 5–8). These fire pans are in the form of an open bowl, pinched like a lamp but with a handle instead of a spout. While some of the Yavneh pans are perforated on the base, others are not. The function of the pans was identified on the basis of the pattern of burn marks, which indicate that the marks are not accidental but resulted from their use for carrying coals. Such pans have parallels at Aya Irini and on Cyprus (Kletter and Ziffer 2010: figs. 14–16, 18–21) and in a fresco from the West House at Akrotiri, where a woman holds the base of a handled bowl filled with coals; her position implies that this bowl was not perforated on the base. In all of these examples, the smoke of the burning material rises directly from the bowl of the burner.

The evidence from these incense burners and fire pans indicates that perforated cups were not used in Egypt, Greece, Cyprus or Philistia for burning incense. Small open bowls with a vertical or slightly flaring rim held the coals on which the aromatic was sprinkled and the smoke and flame rose upwards. This does not explain the tripod cups found throughout the southern Levant, but does offer us a chance to evaluate them anew. It is important to note that small stone altars, common in the Persian period, are not comparable and should be studied separately.²

When we look for evidence supporting the usual identification of these small vessels as incense burners/cups, we find it lacking

in most instances (Daviau 2001b:207–208), where the interior of the cup is clean with no soot stains or resinous residue.³ This is certainly the case at WT-13, where none of the cups retain any evidence of residue that could be the result of burning resinous incense.⁴ The fact that tripod cups were in use at W-13 during Stratum II and were also common in contemporary tomb assemblages suggests that there was some special function for the cups and for the holes in the body of the vessel. Because some of the holes were incompletely perforated, it is clear that the principal purpose of the cups was not as a strainer or sprinkler. It is more likely that those from WT-13 were used for aromatic ingredient(s), either scented oils, aromatic herbs and flowers, spices or a mixture of such ingredients. Although textual evidence from Babylonia can be interpreted to suggest that incense was in use, at least in the domestic cult (van der Toorn 1994:45), it is not clear what is meant by “incense”; is this a combination of aromatic woods and other plant material, including flowers, or an imported aromatic resin, such as frankincense, or a combination of these ingredients?⁵ The trade in resinous incense is well documented for the Iron Age (Finkelstein 1988; 1992), but has yet to be directly related to the archaeological record for sites in central Moab. It is interesting to note that certain late Iron Age II tripod cups were without perforations and were less deep and more closed at the mouth than many of the perforated cups (Daviau 2001b: fig. 1:4, 5).

Among the cups from WT-13, body shapes include globular, biconical, piriform, and carinated, while some cups have a ribbed body.⁶ Perforations are concentrated either in the upper or mid-body, with some examples of cups with holes from the rim to just above the base. Only one perforated cup with a flat, crudely finished base does not have peg feet. All other examples have three feet that vary in shape from small pads to cylindrical stubs. The smallest are in the form of pads attached to the base, others are true cones attached vertically (Fig. 7.1:1) or on an angle (Fig.

7.1:9). Most unusual are the small pegs with a bent tip (Fig. 7.1:7). The thickest feet are the cylindrical ones with a flattened bottom (Fig. 7.1:22).

Figure 7.1. Perforated tripod cups

A. GLOBULAR CUPS

1. (A1/5.12). Body + base; body D 13.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.
2. (A2/38.29). Body; body D 10.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior; pendant petals; 97/1818.
3. (A2/34.5). Body + base; body D 12.6 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior; 97/1821.

B. BICONICAL CUPS

4. (A2/45.15). Body + base; D 11.7 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, white (10YR 8/1) exterior; 97/1816; 97/1817.
5. (A4/9.11). Body + handle; D 12.3 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.
6. (A2/18.23). Flat base + body + handle; D 11.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, light gray (2.5Y 7/2) exterior.

C. PIRIFORM CUPS

7. (A2/12.7). Body + base; D 11.0 cm; white (10YR 8/1) fabric and exterior.
8. (A2/25.18). Body + base; D 9.2 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior.
9. (A4/12.28). Body + base; D 10.2 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.
10. (A1/32.2). Rim to base; rim D 7.5, body D 11.0 cm; brown (7.5YR 5/4) fabric and exterior.
11. (A1/80.1). Rim to base; rim D 9.5 cm, body D 10.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior; 97/1833; 03/1810.

D. RIBBED BODY CUPS

12. (A2/12.6). Rim to base; rim D 10.0, body D 10.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior; 97/1810; 97/1822; 97/1830.

13. (A2/6.25). Neck + shoulder; D 8.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior; 97/1834.

E. VARIOUS FORMS OF TRIPOD CUPS

14. (A6/39.5). Rim; D 10.0 cm; pinkish gray (5YR 7/2) fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/3) exterior.

15. (A3/5.1). Rim; D 8.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

16. (A8/10.3). Rim; D 7.5 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

17. (A2/1.2). Rim; D 7.5 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior; 97/1832.

18. (A1/38.5). Miniature; D 5.5 cm; pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3) fabric and exterior.

F. TRIPOD BASES

19. (A6/48.1). Body + base; D 12.0 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric; pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

20. (A2/6.4). Body + base; D 9.2 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

21. (A2/54.29). Body + base; D 9.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior; WT 219.

22. (A2/19.1). Base; D ca. 10.0 cm; pink (5YR 8/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) exterior.

23. (A6/44.1). Miniature; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) exterior

Parallels

Given the incomplete condition of the cups at WT-13, only parallels from sites with similar features are included below. The tripod cups from Tall Jawa reflect the Ammonite tradition of inverted triangular rims (Daviau 2001b: fig. 1:3, 4).

Hazor: The rim and upper part of a “strainer cup” dated to the 9th century BC has an upright stance with holes beginning immediately below the rim (Garfinkel and Greenberg 1997: fig. iii.25:5). The perforated body, round base and peg feet of a tripod cup from Stratum VII in Area A are missing the rim and handle. Other base sherds from Stratum V in Area B are less well preserved, while the round base of a tripod cup from Strata IV–III preserves the change of direction on the lower body (Yadin *et al.* 1958: pls. xlix:31; lxxiii:2, 3; lxxviii:14).

Bethsaida: Four perforated cups represent the standard style of cup-shaped perforated vessels (Arav 2009: figs. 1.95; 1.97-1.99).

Tel Hadar: A tripod bowl with only one row of perforations is somewhat larger than the tripod cups at WT-13. However, it may have served a similar function (Kochavi *et al.* 1992:44).

Beth-Shean: Four perforated cups, each with a simple, vertical or flaring rim and gently rounded or carinated body (James 1966: figs. 1:5; 3:4; 34:4; 72:6) are closer in style to the cups from WT-13, when compared to those from the Ammonite site of Tall Jawa, where rims are inverted and triangular (see above).

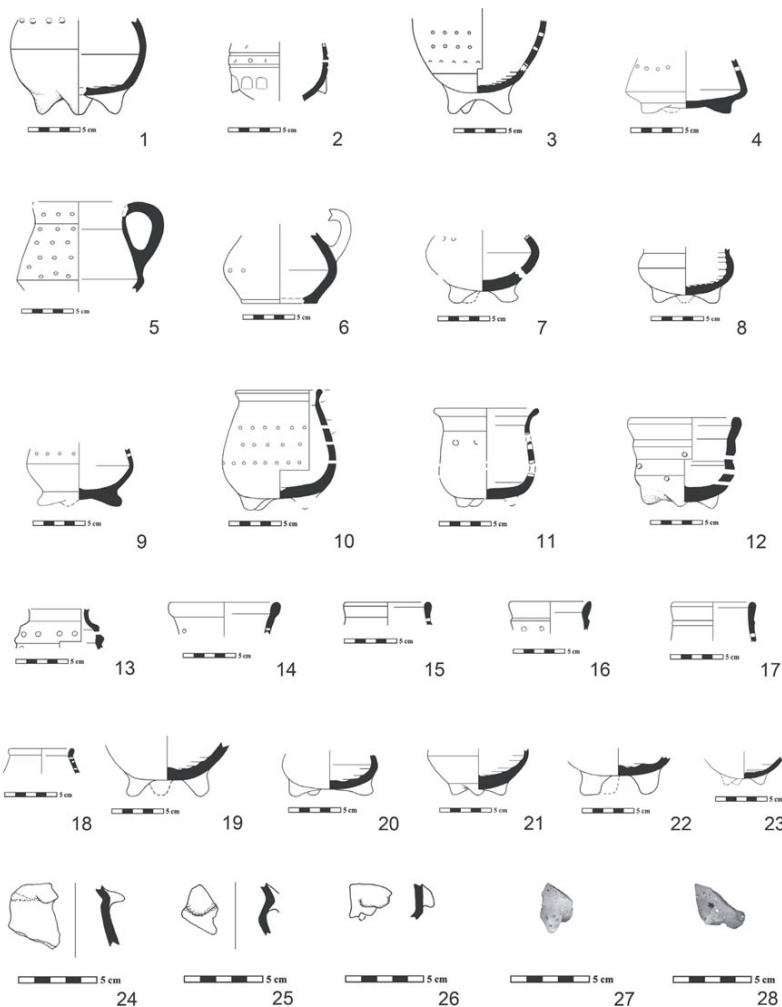


Figure 7.1. Tripod cups: 1–18) various shapes; 19–23) bases; 24–28) pendant petals.

Tell el-Farḥah (N): Two globular perforated cups appear as variants within this type; one has a handle springing from the shoulder to the lower body and the second has lug handles (Chambon 1984: pl. 54:12, 13).

Tel Malḥata: Although no complete perforated tripod cups are

preserved, several vessels are represented by their rim or base. One cup with a tall offset rim is an unusual form, but here also the holes are in the mid-body area (Freud 2015: fig. 4.61:8). Other rims are vertical or flaring with holes below the rim (2015: figs. 4.98:7; 4.103:15; 4.125:14; 4.138:6(?); 4.163:11). Only two bases with peg feet appear to be in the correct size range (2015: 4.90:15; 4.180:14).

Ḥorvat Qitmit: Perforated cups, some with tripod feet, are identified as jugs, but appear to be good comparanda in their simple rim forms (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995: figs. 4.3:26–28; 4.14:26, 27).

Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat): Piriform and round bodied cups are present in substrata 3a–b (late 8th century) and Stratum 2 (late 7th century) contexts (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pls. 11.54:27; 11.50:7; 11.90:4; 11.86:15), including one that is painted (2246; 11.50:7). Rim and neck sherds with holes also represent perforated cups (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pls. 11.39:7; 11.72:12).

Tell er-Rumeith: Several cups are preserved rim to base, while other sherds constitute the rim or body with perforations, or the base itself with tripod feet (Barako 2015: fig. 3.39:1–24).

Pella: Three tripod cups, two perforated and one unperforated, are related to cultic behaviour (Bourke 2012: fig. 22:1-3).

Tall Dayr Ḥalla: One Phase VI globular cup with a simple, slightly flaring rim was perforated on the rim and shoulder (Franken and Ibrahim 1978: pl. xxxiv.2).

ḤAmman area: In contrast to the assemblage from WT-13, the

tripod cups from the tombs in ʿAmṣn are unperforated (Harding 1945: nos 10–13, 53; 1951:39, fig. 1:11; Dajani 1966: pl. vii:47, 123; VIII:57, 48 (as shown); ix:64–68, 70). The same is true of the six cups from the Tomb of Adoni Nur, although their rim stance is vertical (Harding 1953: fig. 221:77–81) and of the single cup at Maqabalayn (Harding 1950: no. 78).

Saḥab: All nine cups from a tomb at Saḥab are unperforated (Harding 1947–1948: 22–30).

Mount Nebo: Certain cups in Tombs CUV-20 and CUV-84 were soot stained (Saller 1966:205, 208, 210; figs. 15, 16), while others had no trace of fire.

Madaba: A tomb with both late Iron I and early Iron II pottery yielded five tripod cups (Piccirillo 1975: pl. 57:4–8).

Dhibān tombs: Perforated cups with flaring rim and low change of direction are dominant with one example of a bag-shaped body (Tushingham 1972: figs. 16:15–18; 23:7, 11).

Tall al-Khalayfa: Both carinated and rib-sided tripod cups are represented in the assemblage, including one perforated cup with a flat base (Pratico 1993: pl. 29), comparable to cup A2/18.23 (Fig. 7.1:6).

Perforated cups with pendant petals

One cup has a band of pendant petals around the lower body (A2/38.29; Fig. 7.1:2). The petals, pendant or upcurving, are a common Egypto-Phoenician motif which is best known from the bands that decorate ceramic and metal thymateria and stone incense altars found at sites throughout the Phoenician world

(Culican 1980). The closest example of an altar with this motif in Jordan is the limestone candelabrum altar from Mudayna Thamad (Daviau and Steiner 2000: fig. 10; Dion and Daviau 2000).

Two styles of petal are noted in the random sherd material. Along with the undecorated rounded petals (Catalogue below), there are pointed or triangular-shaped petals with small depressions similar to those on serpent relief fragments, usually found on architectural models ([Chapter 5](#)). Two such petals, each attached to a perforated body sherd (A4/12.10; A10/100.35) are of this second type. The symbolism of these petals is obscure.

Figure 7.1. Perforated tripod cups

G. PENDANT PETALS

24. (A2/64.9). Cup(?); Light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior; class in doubt.
25. (A4/12.8). Reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric and exterior.
26. (A8/2.1). Pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.
27. (A10/100.35). Pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.
28. (A4/12.10). Very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

Parallels

Megiddo: The motif of pendant petals decorated with hatched or trident-shaped design is present on knobs around the rim of two painted chalices, one from Stratum V and the other a surface find (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 33:15, 17).

Tell en-Naṣbeh: Undecorated pendant petals on specialty vessels, such as a chalice from Tell en-Naṣbeh (Wampler 1947: pl. 69:1570), are more common than painted petals.

Ḥorvat Qitmit: In the Edomite repertoire, denticulation is common (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995: figs. 4.12:14, 32, 34; 4.15:3, 5, 9;

4.17:33–37), a style that may be related to the petal motif.

Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat): A ceramic stand fragment includes two rings of pendant petals (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pl. 11.57:5).

Tall Jawa: Following the Ammonite decorative scheme, fragments of a tripod cup retain pendant petals decorated with a white wash and painted black net design (V358 = TJ 1475; Daviau 2001b: fig. 1:6).

Small and miniature vessels

Small and miniature vessels are present in the form of juglets, bowls and cooking pots. Most unusual is the number of miniature juglets, either as oxidized or reduced vessels. Only one example of a miniature perforated cup was identified (see above).

Juglets

Small (body D *ca.* 5.5 cm) and miniature (body D *ca.* 1.5–4.0 cm) juglets dominate the assemblage; standard size juglets (body *ca.* D 6.0, H 10.0–15.0 cm) are few. Cypriot imports and imitations are included in this collection, along with miniature juglets in various fabrics. Black juglets and miniature black juglets are even more numerous, although their state of preservation is fragmentary.

A. Cypriot and Cypro-Phoenician juglets

Criteria: When compared with local Moabite and Ammonite juglets that occur in various sizes, shapes and surface treatments, Cypriot style juglets occur predominantly in two sizes, medium and small, with fewer examples of miniature juglets. A number of juglet sherds at WT-13 appear to be Cypriot imported Black-on-Red II (IV) juglets (Gjerstad 1948: pl. iii:9) with black bands on the rim, neck and body on a red background. Imported vessels in Moab are thin-walled (*ca.* 1.5 mm), made of finely levigated bright pink/

light red fabric and decorated with black bands, while locally or regionally made vessels are thick-walled with a dusky red fabric colour and may be of local or Phoenician manufacture.⁷ The best example of an import (Fig. 7.2:1) is the rim and neck of a thin-walled, mushroom lipped vessel with a ridged neck decorated with five black painted bands and diagonal lines flanking the handle, which has a black vertical stripe on its outer side. A second neck and handle sherd (Fig. 7.2:2) has two bands on the neck and a black handle, while a third neck sherd (Fig. 7.2:3) has the same pattern of five black bands seen on the more complete neck and rim fragments.

Other sherds are decorated with black painted bands on a burnished surface and, in certain instances, with concentric circles. Many fragments of this form consist of either the body or the neck and rim sherd, suggesting that these two components were formed separately. Most of the examples from WT-13 are in small pieces with the result that the full range of decorative motifs cannot be established for any given vessel. A handful of red fine-ware body sherds made of levigated clay should be considered imports. One burnished sherd has horizontal bands and the curve of a small concentric circle pattern (Fig. 7.2:6), while two sherds each have five horizontal black bands on a red surface and three other sherds appear to have a wavy line running around the body. Most notable are the sherds burnished to a high polish, also known as “dense burnish” (Zimhoni 2004:1730). This can be seen clearly on a flat, miniature crisp ware base (Fig. 7.2:7). A similar, but lightly burnished base (Fig. 7.2:8) may also have been an import. All of these juglets are smaller than the locally made juglets found in great quantities in tombs in Moab and Ammon: Saḥab, Amman, Dhībân and Nebo (Dornemann 1983: fig. 38: 1–24). It should be noted that a small number of Cypriot style juglets/amphoriskoi from Saḥab are indeed miniatures (Dornemann 1983: fig. 38:28, 35–39), although no such juglets have been found on Cyprus.

Description: The recovery of imported Black-on-Red Cypriot juglets

is rare in Jordan, making the finds from WT-13 especially notable. The model for flaring rim juglets can be seen in its Cypriot homeland, especially on vessels from the tombs at Palaepaphos-Skales (Karageorghis 1983) and in Phoenician imports, to which Moscati (1988: fig. 162) assigned a long life (13th–10th century BC), while Birmingham (1963:36) determined that these juglets began in Cyprus during the 11th century. The flaring painted rim appears at Tel Michal in Stratum XIV (10th century); it continues to be popular and is related to the classic mushroom lip painted jug form found at Phoenician sites, for example in the Akhziv tombs dated to the Iron Age II (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 3.9:20; see also, Culican 1986). It is important to note that the black paint on the small juglets continues down the handle in a vertical stroke. The most recent assessment of Sherd A8/25.1 (Fig. 7.2:1) was by J. Smith who identified it as a Cypriot product and assigned it to the Cypro-Geometric period (8th century).⁸ By way of contrast with rim and neck Sherd A8/25.1, sherd A4/12.4 has one wide black band immediately below the rim, without any evidence of additional bands.

Parallels

Cyprus: Morris (1985:41) mentions the widespread distribution of Black-on-Red juglets and the uncertainty concerning their origin, although he notes the intensive development of this form on Cyprus and its subsequent appearance throughout Phoenicia and the southern Levant. The vessels in his collection have a reddish brown slip, black painted bands and handle (1985: pl. 25:a, b, f). Standard size jugs are in the range of 12–14 cm in height, with a smaller version measuring 8.5 cm.

Palaepaphos-Skales: Two juglets from Tomb 56 are assigned a date in Cypro-Geometric III period (Karageorghis 1983:111; pl. xv: T.56:1, 2). These small vessels have a brown to dark brown slip and black bands, with one juglet (T.56:2) having a swastika on the

shoulder. Other juglets, dated to the same period were present in Tomb 54 (pl. lxxvi:11).

Tel Dan: Among the pottery in storeroom 2094 of the sacred precinct is a Cypro-Phoenician juglet with five painted bands on the neck and rim and a group of five bands on the body. A design of three concentric circles is on the shoulder opposite the handle (Biran 1994:131 = Arie 2008: fig. 11:6).

Hazor: A Cypro-Phoenician juglet made of a pink levigated clay with paint on the neck and rim was located in the southern gate tower (Area A, Stratum X-IX) in association with a small painted amphora with flaring rim (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. clxxvii:14). Another example of a decorated rim and neck sherd made of levigated pink clay was recovered in the central room of the pillared building (Area A, Stratum VII; Yadin *et al.* 1958: pl. l:14), while a third example made of red clay was in the Granary (Area G) assigned to Stratum V (pre-732 BC; Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. cclii:14).

Akhziv: The globular juglet form (CP6) is found in the assemblage from Tomb Z XX, along with the elongated decanter-style juglet (CP8), also painted with black bands. and larger jugs of the same design (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 3.16:53, 56, 57, 54–55, respectively). Another example, this one from Tomb ZR XXIX, is in an assemblage of 9th–8th century vessels (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 4.21:35).

Tel Bira: Among the finds from an area of cremation burials is a ceramic assemblage that contains several Phoenician vessels, including a Black-on-Red juglet with black painted bands on the neck. This assemblage is dated to the 8th–early 7th century BC (Alexandre and Stern 2001:191; fig. 5:12).

Ḥorbat Rosh Zayit: From under the Stratum II destruction debris of the Phoenician fort, a considerable amount of Black-on-Red ware

was recovered consisting of 43 bowls and 25 jugs and juglets. These vessels, formed using a “well levigated clay” and “fired at a high temperature to a metallic finish”, are shown by Gal and Alexandre (2000:68–70) to be Cypriot in origin. Globular juglets in this same ware were recovered from several different loci (2000: figs. III.49, 58–60; III.81:4; III.90:15; III.95:13). This vessel type is also represented in Stratum I (2000: fig. III.122:27). The closest parallel to WT-13-A8/25.1 is a rim and neck sherd which also has a black painted band running diagonally over the top of the handle (2000: fig. III.76:15). One of these juglets fragment from Area C is dated to the 8th century (2000:187; fig. VII.12:24).

Azor: A complete Black-on-Red juglet was present in an Iron IIA grave along with small flasks and imported White Painted II ware (Ben-Shlomo 2008: fig. 19:7).

Megiddo: Two examples of this juglet type (492), appear already in Stratum VA (Loud 1948: pl. 146:20, 21), one of which (a 7511) was located in 2081, a small room with a cultic assemblage. This form had already been classified as Type 123 for its appearance in Strata V–III; the two-handled version with the same painted-band pattern is also represented in these strata (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pls. 5:123; 17:87).

Ta'anach: A complete globular juglet with the standard pattern of bands on the neck and rim shares this decorative motif with a decanter style juglet (Rast 1978: fig. 93:5, 6).

Dothan: A single-handled Black-on-Red juglet is associated with Iron Age IIA pottery from House 8 at Tell Dothan (Master *et al.* 2005: fig. 10.55:13).

Beth Shean: FitzGerald (1930:12) recognized contamination in the pottery that he assigned to the Ramesses II Level. This assemblage included a Black-on-Red juglet with black bands on the neck, a vessel that he thought did not predate the 8th century.

Tel Amal: A small neck and rim sherd with five black bands is one of two Cypro-Phoenician vessels in this early Iron Age II assemblage (Levy and Edelstein 1972: fig. 13:18).

Tel Mevorakh: Along with Black-on-Red bowls assigned to Stratum VII of the 10th century were sherds of several juglets. One fine ware juglet rim and neck fragment is described as contemporary with Megiddo Stratum VA–IVB (Stern 1978:77; fig. 17:16=pl. 33:3).

Tel Michal: At this site as well, the rim and neck of a juglet with painted bands was recovered along with early Iron Age II pottery (Singer-Avitz 1989: fig. 7.1:15).

Gezer: The neck and handle stub of a juglet with painted bands on a light red levigated fabric is among the fine, thin-walled types and is assigned by Gitin (1990: pl. 22:12) to the late 8th–early 7th centuries.

Yahneh Favissa: An early 8th century dating was assigned by J. Smith to a group of imported Black-on-Red juglets found at Yavneh, although the local imitations of these juglets may be contemporary (Panitz-Cohen 2010:111; fig. 7.5:16–19).

Ashdod: A juglet neck and rim of brown clay, yellow core, burnished, decorated (red and black) comes from Stratum VIII (local Str. 3 in Area D) (Dothan 1971: fig. 38:8).

Tell es-Safi/Gath: An Iron Age IIA Black-on-Red juglet with five bands around the neck and a black painted stripe on the handle (Shai and Maier 2012: pl. 14.9:8) is a good parallel for the sherds at WT-13, although it appears to be thick-walled in Phoenician style.

Lachish: A complete juglet was identified as Black-on-Red ware by Tufnell (1953: pl. 36:64=88:336); this vessel has five painted bands on the neck, including one on the diagonal from under the

neck ridge to above the handle.⁹ From Level III, there is also a juglet with five rings on the neck, parallel bands and concentric circles on the shoulder. Another example, this one from Level IVC, has a flat base, ovoid body and four bands on the orange clay body with “dense burnishing” (Zimhoni 2004 figs. 26.18:18; 25.25:16).

Tel Eton: An 8th century example from the Assyrian destruction level consists of a single juglet (10132.02) preserved neck to base and decorated with black bands on the upper body (Katz and Faust 2012: fig. 12:2).

Tell Beit Mirsim: Although there is no black band on the rim of imported Cypro-Phoenician juglet 1268, the neck has black bands above and below the rim and a single handle extending from the neck ridge to the shoulder (Albright 1932:72; pl. 51:9). According to Albright in 1932, this form did not continue later than the 9th century, when the thick-walled version took its place. However, more recent excavations at sites in the Shephelah indicate its presence in 8th century deposits.

Bethlehem: A group of sherds, probably all from the same vessel, preserve the shoulder design of five black bands as well as the neck and rim, also decorated with black bands (Saller 1968:171; fig. 4:17).

B. Small Juglet with shield design

The painted decoration on juglet P13/112 (Fig. 7.2:4)¹⁰ consists of horizontal black painted bands above a centered red circle edged in black, described here as a “shield design”. In some examples of this motif, the large filled circle has a small dark center, or bull’s eye, similar to the pattern seen on painted flasks. This vessel type shares both Cypriot and Phoenician features.

Parallels

Yavneh Favissa: Among the plain wares found in the pit is one example of a juglet with filled concentric circles (Panitz-Cohen 2010: fig. 7.5:26).

Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat): A Cypro-Phoenician amphoriskos with black bands on the neck and a large design of concentric circles in white and black on a red slipped body is an excellent example of the shield design (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pl. 11.90:10).

WT-200: To east of WT-13, in an Iron Age tomb near Mudayna Thamad, two pieces of small a juglet (P200/25) serve as another version of this design (Chadwick 2016, fig. 4:6). In this case, there are several shield patterns encircling the body.

Mudayna Thamad: Larger in size (body D 8.0 cm) is a juglet with a flat base bearing a shield design on two sides of the body. These large filled circles are enclosed with thin concentric circles and bordered by horizontal bands. This decorated juglet was located in the textile building complex at Mudayna Thamad along with unpainted Cypro-Phoenician style amphoriskoi (Daviau and Chadwick 2007: fig. 3d) and other high status vessels (Daviau *et al.* 2012: fig. 20; Daviau and Klassen 2014: fig. 6:1).

Dhībân: Better known are the Cypro-Phoenician style amphoriskoi from the tombs at Dhībân. In this corpus, there are two standard size amphoriskoi (body D 7.0–9.0 cm) with horizontal bands framing circles centered on the body (Tushingham 1972: fig. 16:6, 12).

Busayra: A juglet with a full height of 14.1 cm and a body diameter of 9.0 cm also has the shield design (Bienkowski *et al.* 2002: fig. 9.57:6).

C. Miniature decorated vessels

Thin-walled red ware juglets with horizontal bands on the

shoulder were formed of a fine, levigated clay and are grouped here as Cypro-Phoenician vessels. More than a dozen body sherds of this same fabric were in the assemblage, each from a different vessel. Only the most interesting examples are illustrated. Best preserved are two sherds from the upper body of a painted juglet with at least of three black bands (Fig. 7.2:5). Two base sherds from equally small vessels are burnished to a fine polish (Fig. 7.2:6, 7).

Various painted designs on body sherds suggest various sources of production; the first sherd (Fig. 7.2:8) is red levigated ware that is polished and painted with faded bands and the curve of a circle, probably from a Black-on-Red juglet, while the second is paper thin red levigated ware with a garland, or wavy-line, design that is unique (Fig. 7.2:9). What might be considered Cypro-Phoenician ware, a fine grain and compact fabric, is represented by a body sherd with heavy vertical burnishing and a broad horizontal band (Fig. 7.2:10), while a second slightly thicker sherd (Fig. 7.2:11) has three thin bands bordered above and below by a single broader band.

Among the unique sherds in this group of miniature vessels is a bichrome body sherd (Fig. 7.2:12) painted with red and black bands and white wash. A second sherd with black bands on the shoulder is also made of thick fine grain fabric (Fig. 7.2:13). Unusual in this group are two very small juglets covered with a dark red slip, only one of which (Fig. 7.2:14) was in sufficiently large pieces to indicate the full size of the vessel. The final example among decorated sherds is one of a kind in shape, fabric and paint colouring; this sherd constitutes a body sherd from a miniature flask (Fig. 7.2:15).

Figure 7.2 Imported miniature juglets and amphoriskoi

1. (P13/106 = A8/25.1); see Chapter 3; Fig. 3.5:13.
2. (A4.2. 3). Rim + neck + handle; rim D 1.5, min neck D 0.6 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior, very dark gray

(N 3/) paint.

3. (A1/9.11). Neck with neck ridge; min neck D 0.6 cm; light red (10R 6/8) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) exterior, dark gray (N 4/) paint.

Two handles, each with black paint; A10/19.15; A2/57.30 (not illustrated).

4. (P13/112=A2/30.6). Body + base; body D 6.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior; very dark gray (10YR 3/1) and red (2.5YR 5/8) paint.

5. (A2/7.8). Neck + body; body D 7.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior, dark gray (N 4/) paint.

6. (A7/14.3). Flat base; D 3.5 cm; light red (10R 6/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior.

7. (A2/41.10). Flat base; D 2.3 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior.

8. (A1/94.4). Body sherd; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior, dark gray (N 4/) paint.

9. (A2/35.8). Body sherd; light red (2.5YR 7/6) fabric and light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior, dark gray (N 4/) paint.

10. (A1/72.18). Body sherd; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric, gray core, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior; very dark gray (N/3) paint.

11. (A1/35.3). Shoulder + handle stub; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior, gray (N 5/) paint.

12. (A2/24.21). Bichrome body sherd; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior, very dark gray (N 3/) and red (10R 5/6) paint.

13. (A10/19.18). Shoulder sherd; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior, dark gray (N 4/) and red (2.5YR 4/8) paint.

14. (A10/19.17). Body + round base; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) slip.

15. (A1/48.4). Miniature Flask; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, dark gray (N 4/) and reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) paint.

Parallels (small juglets)

Dhibân: A small juglet (D 7.0 cm) from the Burnt Bone Deposit has a flaring rim, an interior neck diameter of ca. 1.0 cm and bands on the shoulder below the handle. This vessel is thin-walled compared to the locally-made Cypro-Phoenician juglets/amphoriskoi in Tomb J 6 (Tushingham 1972: figs. 14:2; 21:1–15).

Parallels (miniature flask)

Tel Kinrot/Kinneret (Tell el-Orême): A “small” painted flask with a maximum diameter of ca. 9.0 cm (Nissinen and Münger 2009: fig. 4:3) is probably in the same size range as the vessel represented by painted sherd A1/84.4 (Fig. 7.2:15).

Yavneh Favissa: The upper part of a very small painted flask (D ca. 4.5 cm; Panitz-Cohen 2010: fig. 7.5:25) is another example of these tiny vessels from a cultic assemblage.

D. Plain ware miniature juglets

Rim and body sherds from a variety of very small juglets in different fabrics all appear to be of local production. One of the smallest is an intact drop-shaped vessel with a tall neck and a maximum body diameter of 2.5 cm (Fig. 7.3:1). A straight neck and handle sherd represents a somewhat larger, but very thin-walled vessel (Fig. 7.3:2). Three rim sherds with an internally bevelled lip are also straight sided (Fig. 7.3:3–5). A slightly larger juglet has a mid-neck ridge that marks the point at which the handle was attached (Fig. 7.3:6). This feature is also seen on flaring rim juglets (Fig. 7.3:7, 8) that have a wider rim but the same narrow neck as the straight neck juglets. A profiled rim sherd is the only local ware vessel with paint on the top (Fig. 7.3:9).

Body shapes vary among these tiny vessels; they can be ovoid, globular or slightly piriform. The shape of the base also varies among juglets and may be round, flat, pointed or a button base (Fig. 7.3:12–15). The small size and pointed base of globular

vessels contribute to a piriform shape, such as A2/40.6 (Fig. 7.3:10).

Figure 7.3. Miniature plain ware juglets

1. (WT 132 = A2/34/15). Tall neck, ovoid body + handle; neck $\text{D } 0.9$, body $\text{D } 2.5$, $\text{H } 4.7 + \text{ cm}$; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior; rim missing.
2. (A10/19.19). Neck + handle; $\text{D } 0.7 \text{ cm}$; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.

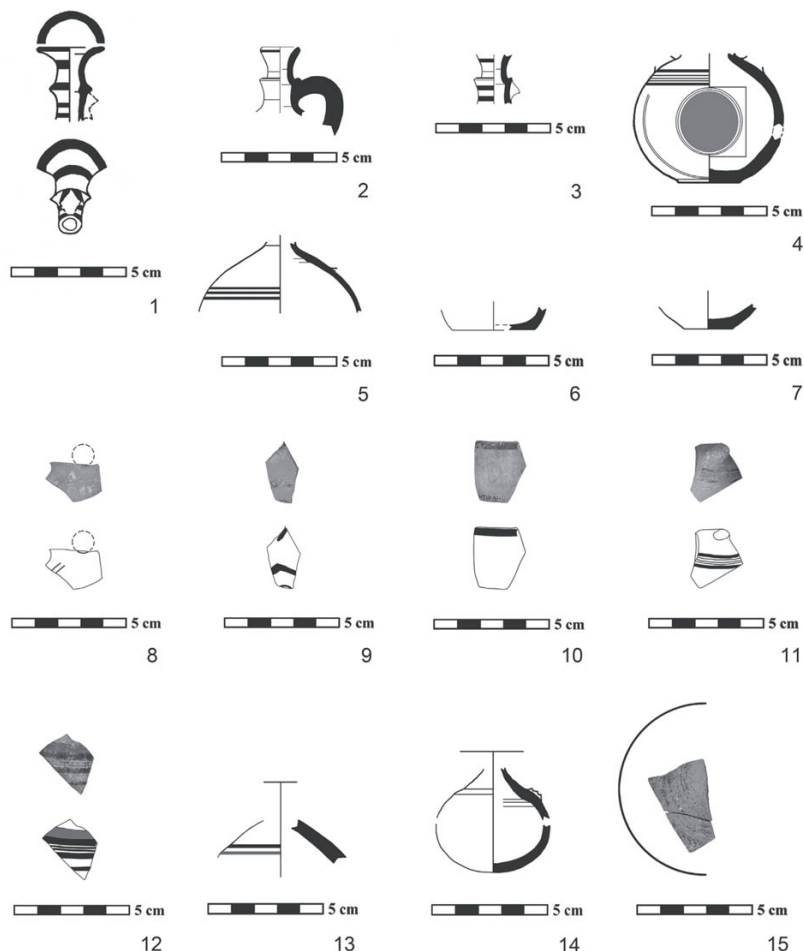


Figure 7.2. Miniature juglets: 1) Cypriot import; 2–3) possible imports; 4)

shield design; 5–14) Cypro-Phoenician juglets; 15) miniature flask

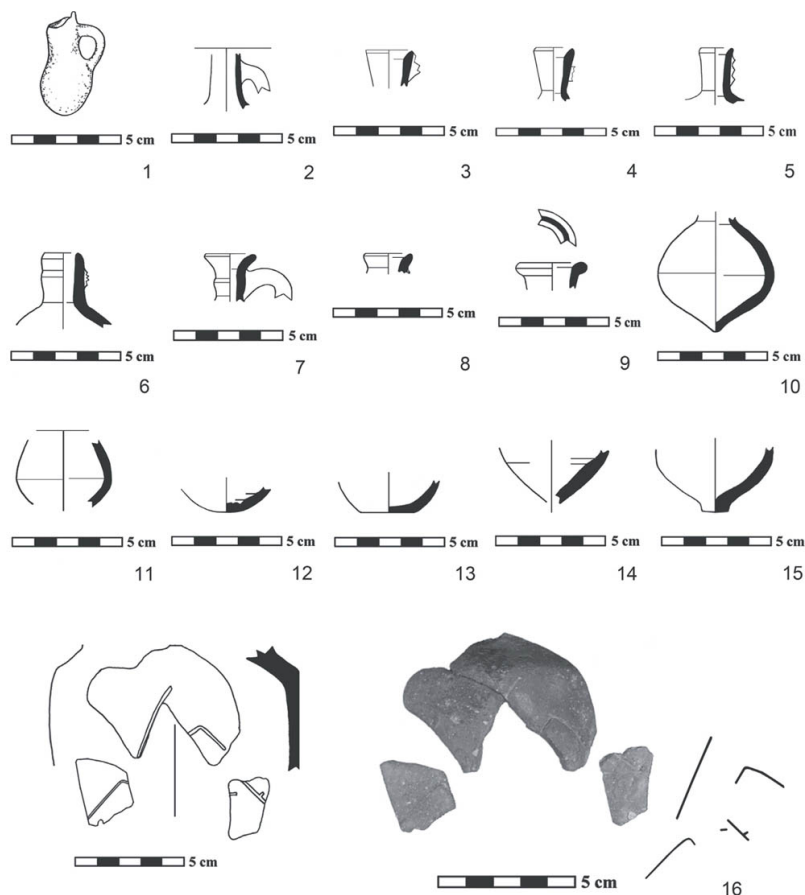


Figure 7.3. Plain miniature juglets: 1–10) rims and bodies; 11–15) bases; 16) incised juglet

3. (A4/15.4). Rim + handle stub; rim D 1.9, neck D 1.2 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric and exterior.

4. (A4/9.38). Rim + neck + handle scar; rim D 1.7, neck D 0.7 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

5. A10/19.12). Rim + neck; rim D 1.4, neck D 0.7 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

6. (A2/65.4). Rim + neck, rim D 1.5, neck D 1.0, neck H 2.2 cm; red (2.5YR 5/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
7. 7. (A10/19.13). Rim + neck + handle; rim D 2.2, neck D 0.6 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
8. (A5/33.6). Rim; D 2.0, neck D 0.7 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
9. (A11/2.2). Profiled rim; rim D 2.8, neck D 1.0 cm; light brown (7.5YR 6/3) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
10. (A2/40.6). Body + base; neck D 1.0, body D 5.3, H 5.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, light red (5YR 6/8) exterior.
11. (A4/9.4). Body, D 4.3 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

BASES

12. (4/9.24). Round base; pink (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.
13. (A2/40.12). Flat base; D 2.4 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) exterior.
14. (A10/19.20). Lower body; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
15. (A2/13.12). Body + button base, body D 5.3, base D 1.2 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) slip.

INSCRIBED JUGLET

16. (A6/4.1). Juglet; body D 4.5 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/3) exterior; incised (see below).

E. Black juglets

Black juglets are well-known from sites in Palestine and Transjordan, where they are typically assigned to Iron IIA–B

contexts (Cohen-Weinberger and Panitz-Cohen 2014:409–410). The vessels from WT-13 include both standard size (*ca.* 7.5–10.0 cm (Fig. 7.4:1–4) and miniature juglets (less than 7.0 cm in height) that range in colour from gray to black, probably a result of fluctuation in the reduction firing.¹² In some cases, the exterior is black slipped and vertically burnished. Thick-walled juglets in standard size are many fewer than the miniature juglets and like all the ceramic material at WT-13, they are poorly preserved.

MINIATURE BLACK JUGLETS

One intact miniature juglet (Fig. 7.4:5) is completely reduced and serves as the best example of more than 80 juglets in black or gray ware. These miniature vessels range in maximum body diameter from 2.0–4.0 cm and in body wall thickness from 2–5 mm.¹³ Two forms are present, juglets with a straight vertical neck and those with a flaring neck. Body shape varies from globular to piriform to ovoid, with a round, flat or button base.

F. Miniature amphoriskoi

Two sherds could be identified definitively as amphoriskos fragments and both are miniature. The best preserved gray ware sherd (Fig. 7.4:19) consists of the rim and neck and the upper portions of twin handles. Although amphoriskoi in the size range of medium juglets are known from numerous sites, parallels for miniature amphoriskoi are wanting.

Black juglet bases (Fig. 7.3:20–24)

The dominant style of base found on the black juglets is the round base, although there is some variation in style. It appears that a number of bases were closed from the outside, so that the thin body wall did not need to be trimmed. In one instance, we assigned a stump base style to a miniature black juglet base (A2/53.20, Fig. 7.4:22) and a disc base to another sherd (A4/35.8;

Figure 7.4. Black juglets

STANDARD SIZE BLACK JUGLETS

1. (A2/52.11). Body and base; body D 5.2 cm; gray (N 5/) fabric and exterior.
2. (A2/30.12). Globular body; D 6.4 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric, very dark gray exterior (N 3/) exterior.
3. (A1/91.18). Rim to shoulder + handle; rim D 2.2, body D 8.0+ cm; gray (N 5/) fabric and exterior; discoloured.
4. (A1/94.1). Rim + neck; rim D 2.2 cm; gray (7.5YR 5/1) fabric, very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1) exterior.

MINIATURE BLACK JUGLETS

5. (WT 133; A2/32.1). Flaring rim, ovoid body + handle; rim D 1.4, body D 2.8, H 4.0 cm; black ware; chipped.
6. (A10/100.21). Globular body + handle stub; body D 3.0 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric and exterior.
7. (A2/61.6). Globular body; D 4.0 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric and exterior.
8. (A10/100.20). Globular body; D 5.0 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric and exterior.

FLARING RIM MINIATURE JUGLETS

9. (A10/19.2). Rim + handle; rim D 2.1, neck D 1.1 cm; black (N 2.5/) fabric and exterior, very dark gray (N 3/) interior; sherd.
10. (A5/11.1). Rim + neck + handle + shoulder; rim D 1.7, neck D 0.7 cm; gray (N 5/) fabric, very dark gray (N 3/) exterior; sherd.

VERTICAL RIM MINIATURE JUGLETS

11. (A10/19.5). Tall straight neck + rim + handle; D 2.2, neck H 2.8; gray (N 6/) fabric, very dark gray (N 3/) exterior; sherds.
12. (A4/23.1). Rim + handle stub; D 1.2 cm; gray (10YR 5/1) fabric, dark gray (10YR 4/1) exterior.

13. (A10 19.1). Rim + handle; rim D 1.5, neck D 0.4; gray (N 5/) throughout; sherd.

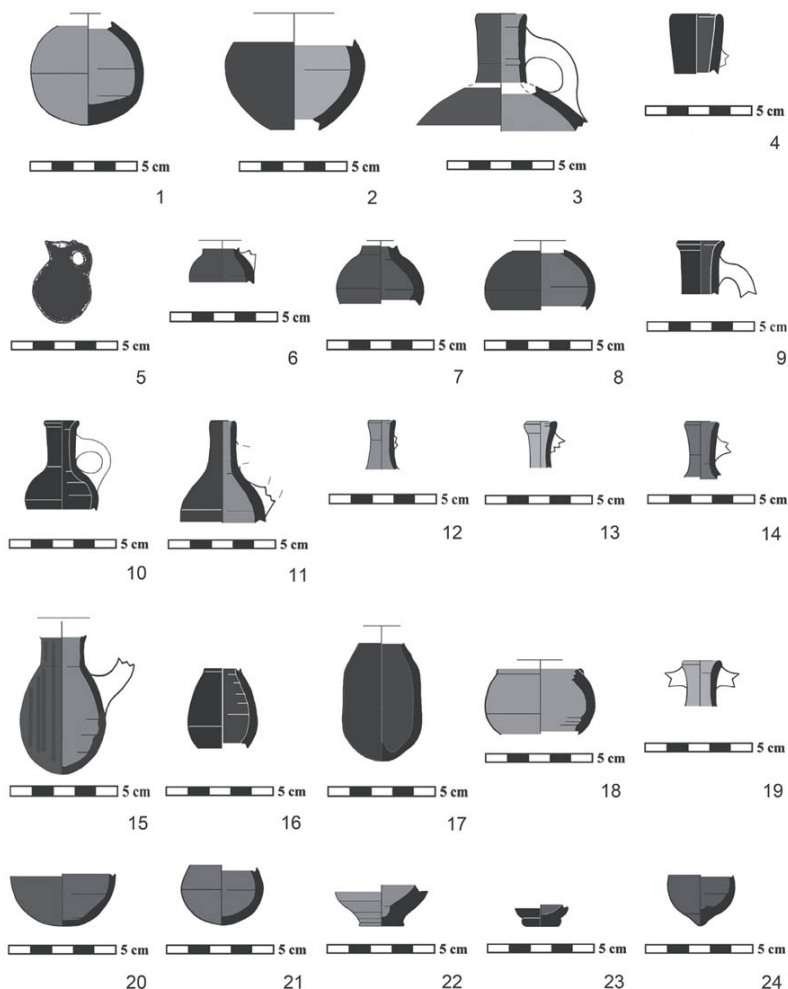


Figure 7.4. Black juglets; 1–4) small black juglets; 5–18) miniature black juglets; 19) black amphoriskos; 20–24, black juglet bases

14. 14. (A2/57.1). Rim D 1.5, neck; D 0.8 cm; gray (N 6/) fabric, dark gray (N4/) exterior.

15. (A2/4.30). Neck to base, ovoid body; D 3.9, H 6.4+ cm; gray (2.5Y 6/1) fabric, very dark gray (5Y 3/1) exterior.

16. (A10/19.10). Ovoid body; D 3.2 cm; very dark gray (N 3/) fabric and exterior.
17. (A2/24.20). Ovoid body + base; D 3.6 cm; gray (N 5/) fabric, very dark gray (N 3/) exterior.
18. (A2/54.25). Spherical body + handle scar; D 5.1 cm; gray (10YR 6/1) throughout.

MINIATURE AMPHORISKOI

19. (A10/19.6). Rim + neck + handles; rim D 1.9, neck D 1.0 cm; gray (N 5/–N 6/) throughout.

BASES

20. (A10/19.9). Round base; body D 3.9; dark gray (N 4/) throughout; sherd.
21. (A2/41.11). Round base; body D 3.8 cm; gray (N 6/) fabric, gray (N 5/) exterior.
22. (A2/53.20). Disc base; base D 2.5 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric, gray (7.5YR 6/1) exterior; discoloured; sherd.
23. (A4/35.8). Flat button base; base D 1.6 cm; gray (N 5/) fabric, very dark gray (N 3/) exterior slip(?); sherd.
24. (A10/19.3). Pointed button base; body D 3.1 cm; gray (N 6/) fabric, gray (N 5/) exterior; sherd.

Parallels

Yoqne'am: The neck of a straight-necked red slipped juglet (Zarzecki-Peleg *et al.* 2005: fig. I.76:19) is a very good parallel in form to that of Juglet A1/94.1 (Fig. 7.4:4).

Shu'afat Ridge (Jerusalem): Although not specifically identified as a miniature, one black juglet has the same size and upright neck as WT 132 (Rapuno and Onn 2004: fig. 8:9).

Athienou: The body size of miniature thick-walled juglets from the Late Bronze Age site of Athienou (Dothan and Ben-Tor (1983: fig. 28:1-16) is comparable to the tiny juglets at WT-13. The principal difference is the wall thickness of the Athienou juglets, when

compared to the egg-shell thin black juglets at WT-13.

Beth Shemesh: Small and very small black juglets with vertical burnishing are present in Stratum IIb–c (Grant and Wright 1938: pl. xlv:32, 33).

Yavneh Favissa: A similar collection was found in the favissa at Yavneh, where 110 miniature black juglets were assembled into two basic types (Panitz-Cohen 2010:125; table 7.6; fig. 7.5:1–10).

Tekoa☞: In a tomb assemblage purchased in Jerusalem, the smallest black juglet is *ca.* 5 cm in height, whereas the remaining 10 juglets are closer to 7.5 cm in overall size (Herr 1986: fig. 5).

Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat): The rim, neck and handle of one juglet and the base and body of a second are examples of black burnished juglets (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: pls. 11.8:3; 11.26:6).

Small bowls

FINE WARE BOWL WITH BAR HANDLE

One example of a thin-walled red slip bowl with a hemispherical/conical body shape and thin bar with knobs (P13/111; Fig. 7.5:1) has parallels in the region (see below). This small bowl form is clearly a high status vessel that occurs in small numbers. Similar bowls appear with and without the bar, but the examples cited here and as parallels all have one thing in common – they are slipped on the exterior and over the rim, but not on the interior below the rim. No complete example is preserved, but the care taken to produce and slip these vessels is striking. Their distribution also serves to link chronologically the settlement of Mudayna Thamad and Tomb WT-200 with WT-13.

Parallels

Pella: What may be the northernmost example of this small bowl

type is found in the assemblage from the West Cut (McNicoll *et al.* 1982: pl. 126:6).

Mudayna Thamad: One example of this thin-walled red slipped form (C93/35.3) was recovered from the debris in Silo 15, north of Gate 100. This small bowl was smooth on the exterior, lacking the bead ridge (unpublished; personal observation).

WT-200: Tomb WT-200, located between Mudayna Thamad and WT-13, yielded one small red slipped bowl (P200/4) with a thickening below the rim at the point where a bar would be positioned (Chadwick 2016: fig. 14:1).

Saliyah: Glueck (1934: pl. 20:16) recovered two examples of this bowl form; the closest parallel to P13/111 is also a small bowl, which is covered with a reddish brown slip on the exterior and over the rim.

SMALL PAINTED BOWL

A second small bowl (Figs. 7.5:2 = A3.31:3) with conical shape and simple rim is painted on the exterior with a series of dark bands alternating with red bands. A similar painted tradition of narrow bands is seen on bowl A7/8.14 (Fig. 3.7:5) from Strata IIIA-IIC¹⁴ and appears on a decanter from Mudayna Thamad (P2010, personal observation).

Parallels

Tall al-Khalayfa: One conical and two round-bodied bowls were painted with narrow bands on the upper body (Pratico 1993: pl. 37:8–10).

OFFSET RIM BOWLS

Offset rim bowls are characteristic of Late Iron Age II, especially in the territory of Ammon. These are typically small thin-walled bowls, made of a crisp fabric, offset on both the interior and

exterior (double-sided), in contrast to earlier (Iron IIB) thick-walled, single-sided offset rim bowls (Tall Jawa, B54/20.10). The two examples from WT-13 are unslipped with a sharp carination (A10/12.1; A7/5.10; [Fig. 7.5:3, 4](#)).

Parallels

Ḥorvat Qitmit: The sharp carination on shallow bowls is also represented in the 7th century assemblage (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995: fig. 4.6:1).

Khirbat en-Nahas: Four small thin-walled bowls with a sharp carination are from a late 9th century accumulation according to Smith and Levy (2008: fig. 13:8–11).

Miscellaneous vessels

ASSYRIAN GLAZED BOTTLES

One sherd ([Fig. 7.5:5](#)) from a glazed button-base bottle of Assyrian manufacture was recognized on the basis of its similarity with two nearly complete bottles of the same fabric and glaze at Mudayna Thamad (Daviau and Klassen 2014). These bottles were widely disseminated in the 8th–7th centuries in northern Mesopotamia and Syria. The origin of this vessel form and the centers of production were on the upper Tigris where decorated bottles make their appearance at sites such as Sultantepe during the 7th century (Anastasio (2010: pl. 31:7). These bottles may derive from the ornate polychrome bottles known at Assur (Anastasio 2010: pl. 60:3 = Andrae 1923: pl. 20) and at Khirbat Khatuniyah, northwest of Nineveh (Curtis and Reade 1995: fig. 38:161 = Anastasio 2010: pl. 39:14). Other examples of glazed ceramic bottles, one plain and one with incised lotus petals but without polychrome decoration, are found in Assyrian tombs at Qasr Shamamuk east of Nineveh (Anastasio 2010: pl. 59:3 [= pl. 50:18], 5) and in the late Iron Age cemetery at War Kabud in Luristan (Haerinck and Overlaet 2004:31; fig. 9), where one incised and three plain glazed

vessels are reported.¹⁵ A decorated polychrome bottle from Lachish was also recognized as a glazed ceramic import (Magrill 1998–1990:41).¹⁶ Although these vessels may have been related to the carrot-shaped ceramic bottles with painted bands known from late Iron Age Ammonite tombs, the unique fabric and glaze of these Assyrian bottles sets them apart. For additional parallels, see Daviau and Klassen (2014).

SMALL/MINIATURE BOWLS

Hundreds of very small rim sherds appear to represent small and miniature bowls including one carinated bowl (Fig. 7.5:6) with Neo-Assyrian parallels at Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2013: fig. 159:16) and Balu (Worschech 2014: A 072). Other miniatures include a cooking pot with a vertical folded rim (Fig. 7.5:7), and a lamp sherd (A4/12.5; Fig. 7.5:8).

SKEUOMORPHIC VESSELS

Only one fragment of a small juglet with skeuomorphic features was recognized. Sherd A10/100.14 (Fig. 7.5:9) is a double loop handle fragment with a pellet representing a rivet at the base.

PAINTED AND SLIPPED CHALICES

Although a few chalice rim sherds were present in various strata, one base sherd (Fig. 7.5:10) has a poorly-preserved painted design on the interior. More significant for linking WT-13 to contemporary sites in the region is an everted chalice rim and upper body with a heavy red slip on the interior and over the rim (Fig. 7.5:11). This form has parallels at Mudayna Thamad in both unslipped and slipped vessels (dark red slip; MT A4/98.8, A4/130.1, A4/144.6; pers. observation). To the west, the form is seen in a late Iron IIA context at Tell es-Safi/Gath (Shai and Maeir 2012: fig. 14.10:CH1=pl. 14.18:5) and in the Yavneh favissa (Panitz-Cohen 2010: fig. 7.2:11, 12), with numerous examples at Beth-Shan (James 1966: figs. 19:21; 62:9) in both Iron IIA and IIB

contexts.

STRAINERS

One sherd represents the curved base of a strainer (Fig. 7.5:12). It is perforated with small holes, *ca.* 0.2 cm in diameter, 0.3–0.6 cm apart, considerably closer than the holes in tripod cups. Although made from the exterior, there is very little residue around the opening on the interior of the holes. A second strainer sherd, with holes *ca.* 0.4 cm in diameter, includes a perforation on a slant that was surrounded on three sides with the stump of a broken attachment (Fig. 7.5:13). Due to its small size, the vessel or artefact from which this sherd came, and its exact function, remains unknown.

Parallels

Beth Shan: A strainer bowl with holes in the base and sides has a unique feature consisting of a small sump in the bottom (James 1966: fig. 22:24).

Tell es-Safi/Gath: Three carinated strainer cups with holes in the bottom of the bowl illustrate the position of the holes in strainer vessels (Shai and Maeir 2012: pls. 14.4:2; 14.7:2; 14.10:4).

Tall Jawa: An example of a carinated strainer from Stratum VIII at Tall Jawa is red slipped and incised on the base with crossed lines sectioning the base into quadrants, each with holes (Daviau 2001b: fig. 4:5).

VESSELS WITH LARGE PERFORATIONS

A small number of sherds have special features and served unique functions in the shrine. One of these (Fig. 7.5:14) is a perforation, which served as a drain hole in the base of a vessel. The hole was chiselled from the exterior and measured 0.9 cm in diameter. Vessels with pre-fired base holes were used in the production of

food stuffs, for example the beer vats at Tell Hadidi (Dornemann 1981:fig. 3:2, 3). The function of this hole in a small vessel is not fully understood.

VESSEL WITH PUNCTATED KNOB

The only example at WT-13 of a punctated knob, possibly on a loop-footed vessel, is a sherd that preserves only the beginning of a looped foot (Fig. 7.5:15). Attached to the loop on the exterior is a broad knob which is punctated on its outer face. The depressions are aligned in three rows with fewer depressions along the lower edge (6, 6, and 5). Parallels for this feature are unknown.

LOOP-FOOTED KRATER

Loop-footed vessels, especially bowls and kraters, are known from the Middle Bronze Age through the Iron Age. Among the numerous krater base sherds at WT-13 is a double disc base with the remnants of a loop handle foot (Fig. 7.5:16); typically such bases have three feet Daviau 2014d: fig. 4:1).

VESSELS WITH SPECIAL FEATURES

Several sherds may have been part of specialty vessels (Table 7B); one has exterior ribbing in more than one direction (Fig. 7.5:17), while another has large, incised concentric circles on the base (Fig. 7.5:18). A single complex vessel (Fig. 7.5:19; WT 514) is broken both on the top and on the bottom. The exterior is covered with a red slipped, except where it is broken, and two branches extend upwards from the rim. The precise function of this vessel is uncertain, although it may have been used for libations.

Table 7B. Sherds with special features

Registration #
0051805.5
0121839100.9
008181315 = A6/4.1
006181417.12

Figure 7.5. Small bowls and miscellaneous vessels

1. (P13/111; A2/40.1). Bowl; D 12.0 cm; gray (7.5YR 6/1) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8) slip; broken.
2. (P13/113; A1/34.5) Conical bowl; D 12.5 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, dark gray (N 4/) and red (2.5YR 5/8) paint.
3. (A10/12.1). Flattened lip carinated bowl; D 17.0 cm; gray (10YR 5/1) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2) exterior; soot stained.
4. (A7/5.10). Round rim carinated bowl; D 17.0 cm: reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) exterior.
5. (WT 373; A2/86.4). Glazed ceramic base sherd; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) fabric, light greenish gray (10Y 8/1) exterior glaze; Assyrian import (Daviau and Klassen 2014).

MINIATURE VESSELS

6. (A10/100.18). Small carinated bowl; D 11.0 cm: light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.
7. (A9/7.4). Miniature cooking pot; D 9.0 cm; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3) fabric and exterior.
8. (A4/12.5). Miniature lamp; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/3) exterior.
9. (A10/100.14). Miniature double handle; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, light red (2.5YR 7/6) slip.

MISCELLANEOUS VESSELS

10. (A2/15.7). Chalice; base D 6.3 cm; pale brown (10YR 6/3) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior, red (2.5YR 5/6) interior slip/paint.
11. (A6/4.5). Chalice; pinkish gray (7.5YR 6/2) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) interior slip.
12. (A3/10.5). Strainer; body sherd; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric light red (2.5YR 6/6) exterior slip.

13. (A2/97.6). Perforated jug sherd; reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior.

SHERDS WITH SPECIAL FEATURES

14. (A5/15.5). Jug; large central perforation, D 0.9 cm; light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.

15. (A4/5.12) Loop footed cup with punctated knob; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

16. (A7/17.29). Loop-footed base; D 9.9 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior slip, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) interior slip; fold visible in section.

17. (A2/100.9). Ridged body sherd; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) exterior.

18. (A6/47.12). Incised base sherd, concentric circles; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) fabric and exterior.

19. (WT 514). Libation vessel(?); light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, weak red (10R 5/4) slip; broken.

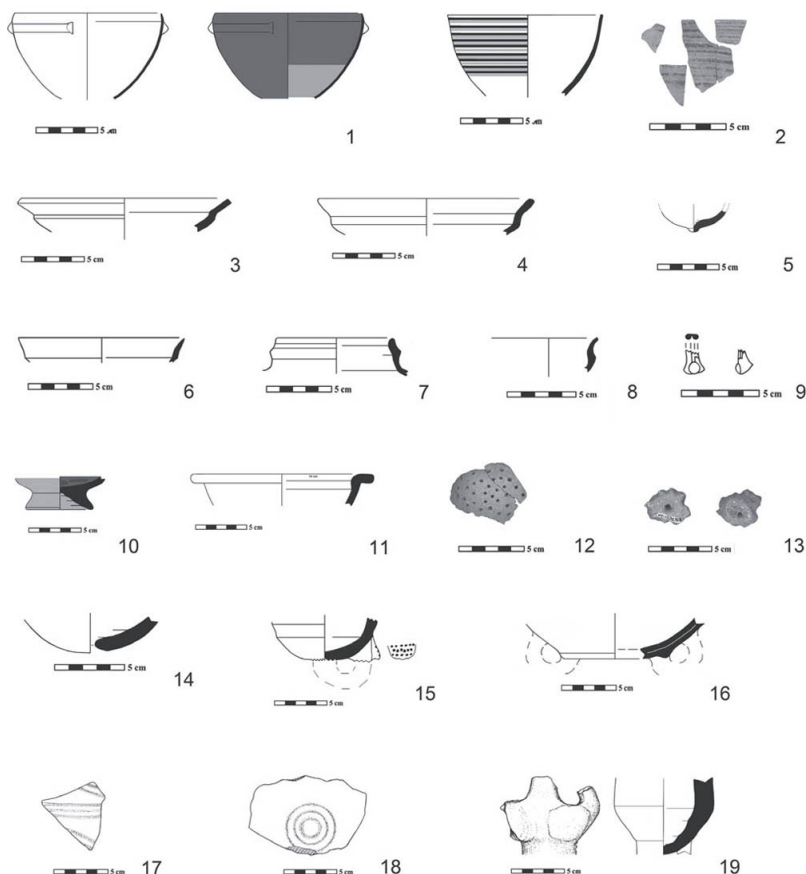


Figure 7.5. Special vessels: 1) red slipped bowl; 2) painted bowl; 3–4) Assyrian-style bowls; 5) Assyrian glazed bottle base; miniature vessels, 6) bowl; 7) cooking pot; 8) lamp; 9) double skeuomorphic handle; 10–11) chalices; 12–13) strainer sherds; 14) perforated jug; 15) base with punctated handle; 16) loop-footed base; 17) ribbed body sherd; 18) incised circles on base; 19) possible libation vessel

Potter's marks

Potter's marks are impressions or incisions formed either pre- or post-firing as a potter's mark or, in some cases, an owner's mark (Table 7C). Well-known from sites in both Palestine and Transjordan, these marks were formed by an impressed finger or tool pre-firing or were cut or chiselled into a fired vessel using a

sharp tool. Only a small number of marks have been noted at WT-13; these occur on the handles of six storejar sherds, one cooking pot and one bowl, each bearing a mark impressed with a finger. In the case of Bowl A9/8.28 (Fig. 7.6:8), the handle bears two impressed finger depressions. These impressions are distinguished from marks made with the use of a rounded tool by their size, shape and the direction of the impression. Also noted was a small bowl with a deep cut on the lip (A4/12.17; Fig. 6.1:11), probably formed during the leather-hard stage.

Table 7C. Potter's marks

Registration #
192734.501
192963.501
200153.502
200349.501
200361.502
200335.503
200381.504
200359.505

Perforations

Sherds from large thick-walled vessels such as storejars are assumed to have been perforated for one of two reasons, the vessels were mended in antiquity (Daviau 2014d) or they were suspended (Table 7D). These holes (0.5–0.8 cm in diameter) were either formed during the leather hard stage or were drilled post-firing, while smaller mend holes were typically formed post-firing and range in size from 0.2–0.4 cm in diameter. One sherd with a hole 0.4 cm in diameter from a large bowl (Fig. 7.6:9) and another perforated sherd with a hole 0.8 cm in diameter (Fig. 7.6:10) may have been suspension holes rather than mend holes. Only a small number of rim sherds at WT-13 preserve perforations that indicate that a vessel was mended in antiquity (Daviau 2014d). More common are body sherds with mend holes (Fig. 7.6:11–13). Nearly

all of the remaining sherds with perforations registered individually can be assigned to tripod cups. The cups were perforated pre-firing and the holes tend to have excess clay around the perimeter on the interior (Fig. 7.6:14).

Figure 7.6. Potter's marks and perforated sherds

1. (1997/1501; A2/34.17). Storejar; finger impression; L 1.3, W 1.2 cm.¹⁷
2. (1999/1501; A2/65.12). Storejar handle; finger impression; L 1.4, W 1.3 cm; dark gray (N 4/) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/3) exterior.
3. (2001/1502; A5/53.1). Storejar; finger impression; L 1.3, W 1.2 cm; pinkish gray (7.5YR 8/2) fabric and exterior.
4. (2003/1501; A1/49.22). Storejar; finger impression, L.1.3, W 1.2 cm; pink (5YR 8/3) exterior.

Table 7D. Mend and suspension holes

<i>Registration #</i>
972:1805 24
972:1811 28
972:1811 38
972:1811 25
972:1820 25
972:1832 49
972:1822 23
972:1831 1
983:1812 14
982:1861 30
995:1801 4
995:1802 22
991:1803 3
994:1804 18
012:1820 79
016:1804 34

~~0A1/181/35.11~~

~~0A5/181/29.4~~

~~0A9/180/21~~

~~0A6/180/19.1~~

~~0A1/180/54.1~~

~~0A1/180/68.1~~

~~0A1/180/68.21~~

~~0A1/182/49.39~~

5. (2003/1502; A9/6.21). Storejar, single finger impression at top of handle; L 1.4, W 1.1 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, light gray core, reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) exterior.
6. (2003/1503; A4/35.7). Storejar; tool impression at base(?) of handle; L 1.1, W 0.7 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior; mark broken.
7. (2003/1505; A1/59.26). Cooking pot; finger mark on handle; L 1.1, W 0.9 cm; dark gray (7.5YR 4/1) fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/4) exterior.
8. (2004/1504; A9/8.28). Bowl, double finger impression, marks side by side; D of marks 1.0–1.2 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, gray core, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) exterior.

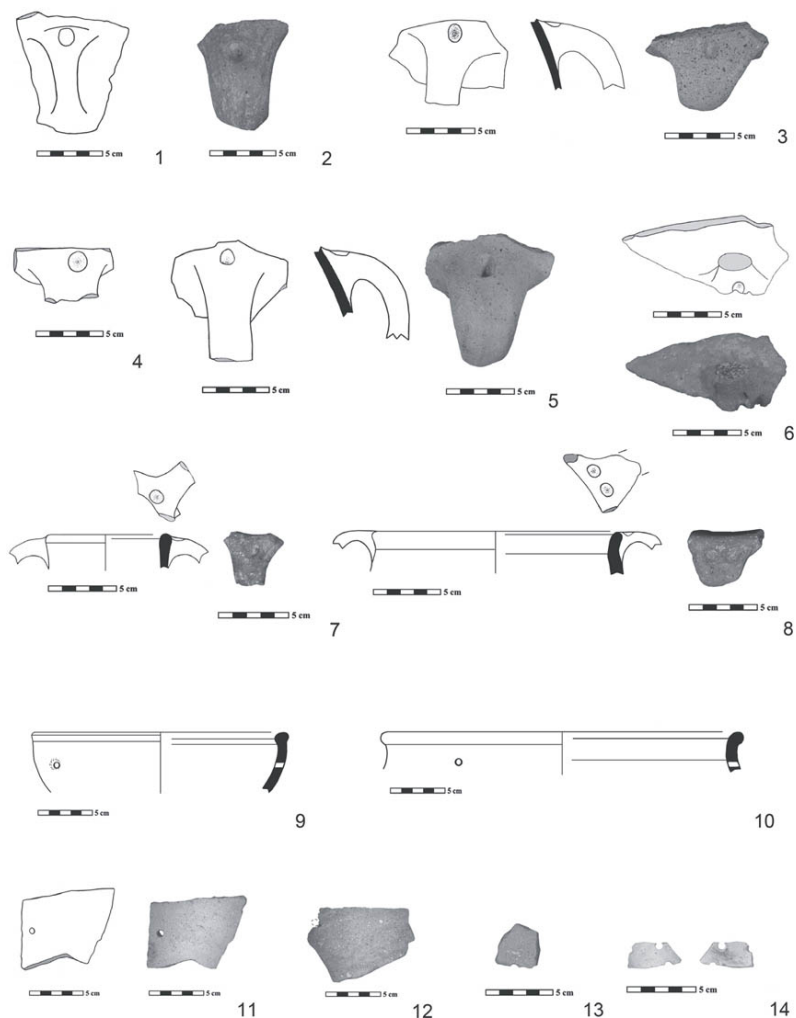


Figure 7.6. Special features: 1–8) potter's marks; 9–10) suspension holes; 11–13) mend holes; 14) tripod cup holes

PERFORATED SHERDS

9. (2003/1821; A8/8.12). Bowl; D 23.5 cm; mend hole, D 0.4 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) slip.

10. (2003/1822; A4/32.3). Bowl; D 34.0 cm; suspension hole, D 0.9 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) fabric, very pale

brown (10YR 7/3) exterior.

11. (1997/1805; A2/17.24). Body sherd; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) exterior.

12. (2003/1806; A1/68.20). Body sherd; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

13. (2003/1807; A1/68.21). Body sherd; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and exterior.

14. (1997/1833; A2/1.29). Tripod body sherd; very pale brown (10YR 8/4) fabric and exterior.

Decorated ceramic sherds

One sherd presented above (A1/66.16; [Fig. 3.16:12](#)) has a distinctive painted design and is worth consideration here. From the rill marks on the interior, it appears that this sherd comes from the shoulder of a closed vessel form, probably a jug.

Description

Three sherds mend together¹⁸ and preserve a design that consists of three concentric circles with two crossed lines through the middle. The outer and inner circles are weak red in colour while the middle circle is very dark gray. This symbol, sometimes identified as a *tet*, is slightly off-centre and is on an angle relative to the rills on the interior.

Parallels

Hazor: Painted designs of a circle and crossed lines appears on one end of one rattle and on both ends of a second one (Yadin *et al.* 1960: pl. lxxxviii:18, 19). These are the best examples of this motif on an object related to religious behaviour.

Jerusalem: Painted *tet* symbols have parallels on inscribed and incised inscriptions from the City of David. Naveh (2000:5) affirms that the meaning of this symbol remains uncertain, although in the

Persian and Hellenistic periods this symbol was commonly used as a seal impression on jar handles. A small number of stamped handles and incised body sherds from the Late Iron Age also bear this symbol (Shoham 2000:24; IP 35–39), which is interpreted by certain scholars as “good” quality wine.

Tall Jawa: One saucer (V524)¹⁹ and the top of a stopper (TJ 1589) are both red slipped with crossed lines in black paint covered with white wash forming the decoration (Daviau 2001a: fig. 3:10, 11). In the case of saucer V524, there are two groups of three parallel lines that cross in the centre, and two nearly parallel lines radiating in four directions from the center of the round-topped stopper.

Notes

1 Of these, 50 are unregistered sherds, many perforated or definitely part of a tripod cup, given their form and fabric. Seventy-three registered perforated sherds were given individual technology numbers (Table 7A, below), each one beginning with a year number followed by a tech code (i. e., 97/1818).

2 Small and miniature limestone altars dating to Iron Age II at Mudayna Thamad (Daviau 2007:138–139; figs. 9–16) are quite different in shape and ornamentation from the cuboid footed altar from Tall as-Sa‘idiyya (Pritchard 1985:66–68; fig. 18:6 (shown as 22); 174).

3 This is not univocal; see for example Zwickel’s discussion (1990:4, n. 7) of examples with burn marks and the details in his catalogue (1990:54–61); for example, he refers to 57 cups stained with soot out of a total of 59 from Tell el-Ghassil in Lebanon (1990:15). Soot stains, unless superficial, remain on ceramic vessels after washing, so this is not an issue in the functional analysis of tripod cups.

4 Two limestone altars at Mudayna Thamad were found with burnt material *in situ*. Cuboid altar MT 647-5/1 from Room 114 in Building 140 and Shaft Altar MT 684-5/30 from the upper storey of Room 205 in Building 200 (Daviau and Dion 2002b:43, photo)

both retained a mixture of plant material in their central depression and both altars were soot stained.

5 The priestly recipe for an aromatic offering in Exodus 30: 34–36 includes a number of ingredients, along with frankincense (Daviau 2007:142).

6 Ribbed cups are typically thick-walled (*ca.* 1.0 cm thick), as seen in two other sherds from similar cups (A2/26.13; A7/17.12).

7 In his discussion of the finds from a tomb in Bethlehem, Saller (1968:171) considered Cypriot imports to be 10th century products, whereas imitations he dated to the 7th century. More recently, Schreiber (2003:180, 212) dates the earliest imports to the late 10th century and a second phase to the 9th and 8th centuries.

8 I am grateful to Prof. Joanna Smith for taking the time to evaluate this sherd (Nov. 16, 2012).

9 In the caption for the photograph on pl. 36, Tufnell assigns a juglet with similar design to Type 337, although the drawing of Type 336 with painted bands on the neck appears to reproduce the photograph more accurately.

10 Vessels from survey sites within the Wadi ath-Thamad Project are assigned a vessel number that include a siglum + site number/item number (P13/101).

11 Neck diameters are interior measurements.

12 This was also noted in the petrographic study undertaken by Cohen-Weinberger and Panitz-Cohen (2014:405) of four juglet fragments from Qeiyafa, where one juglet (C8049) was black on the exterior but had reddish brown fabric (2014: fig. 16.2). The excavators at Khirbet Qeifaya date the contexts where black juglets were recovered to the late Iron I–early Iron IIA.

13 Measurements of the neck diameter represent the interior, whereas rim diameters are of the exterior.

14 See [chapter 3](#) for a discussion of the disturbance that occurred during the filling operation of Stratum IIC.

15 I am grateful to Farzaneh Alamdehi for this reference.

16 One glazed ceramic sherd was reported from Tall al-Fukhār along with the rim, neck and shoulder of a faience bottle (Jensen 2015:351; pl. 210:3, 210:2 respectively).

17 Dimensions are of the mark itself, not the sherd on which it is

preserved.

18 Two of the three sherds were registered.

19 An isolated rim sherd (E53/79.6) is also decorated with red slip and crossed black lines, indicating that saucer V524 at Tall Jawa was not unique.

The provenance of anthropomorphic statues, figurines and pottery

Jan Gunneweg and Marta Balla

Introduction

In order to better understand the relationship between sites with wheel-made ceramic statues, Gunneweg and Balla (2007) undertook a study to establish the provenance of ceramic material found in northern Moab at Site WT-13 and compare their results with the ceramic material from Ḥorvat Qiṭmit and En Ḥaṣeva (Balla and Gunneweg 2003), as well as with pottery from Busayra in Edom (Gunneweg and Balla 2002; 2007). This comparison would help to provide evidence of contact or exchange between various sites and regions.

Analytical technique

Instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) establishes a fingerprint based in large part on trace elements that are site-specific, revealing the abundance of various chemical elements in any earthy matter (Perlman and Asaro 1969; Molnar *et al.* 1993:45–64). This fingerprint is used to trace pottery to the workshop where it was made, since a new chemical composition is

formed when potters add tempering materials to their clay. This new composition is unique to a particular potter or to a site in general. INAA determines quantitatively ca. 35 chemical elements that are sufficient to provide the chemical “fingerprint” of a ceramic vessel.

Samples of pottery, statues and figurines from WT-13 were irradiated in the nuclear reactor of the Technical University of Budapest with a neutron flux of 2.4×10^{12} . The Budapest facility uses a Canberra HPGe Well-type Detector that is connected to a Canberra S100 Multi-channel Analyzer that stores the Gamma-spectrometric measurements. For the evaluation of spectra, SAMPO 90 software was used. Standardization was made by the so-called single comparator method, using gold as the comparator element. The measurements are controlled by irradiating the NBS 1633a Coal Fly Ash Standard Reference together with the samples for accuracy. The pottery assemblages previously published by us demonstrate that NAA can also be of assistance in the case of sites in southern Judah and Transjordan because of their geographical dispersion.

Comparative material

Of relevance here are two previous studies, one of the pottery from Ḥorvat Qitmit and the other of finds from ʿEn Ḥaṣeva. The INAA study of “Edomite” and local pottery at Ḥorvat Qitmit established the provenance, showing that all figurines were made locally somewhere in the triangle between Beer Sheba–Arad–Ḥorvat Qitmit in the northeastern Negev (Gunneweg *et al.* 1991: tables 2, 4; Gunneweg and Mommsen 1990; 1995). Hence, it was decided that the anthropomorphic statues and zoomorphic figurines could not be called “Edomite” in the strict sense as archaeologists had originally suggested.

The research continued by looking at the provenance of a series of nearly forty-two cultic vessels and three anthropomorphic vessels that had been found in yet another shrine, at ʿEn Ḥaṣeva.

This site is located in the Arabah, a dry valley between Israel and Jordan. About 45 samples were analyzed by INAA at Budapest by Balla and Gunneweg in 2000, which showed that most of the *En Haseva* cult vessels were locally made, whereas some vessels came from Edom proper.

WT-13

Ten samples of ceramics found at WT-13 and one figurine fragment from Mudayna Thamad were submitted to INAA at Budapest. Samples 1–4 and 10 were pottery sherds, samples 6–9 were ceramic statue fragments, sample 11 was the base of a pillar figurines and sample 5 was an Iron Age pillar figurine fragment from Mudayna Thamad (Table 8A; see Chapter 4 for details). This analysis was designed to determine the ceramic fingerprints of these samples and the degree of their connection to the figurines and statues found at Horvat Qitmit and *En Haseva*.

Results of INAA

The INAA results demonstrated the fingerprints whereby the various ceramics differ from one another and from INAA data of ceramic objects and pottery from other sites analyzed previously. In the chemical composition of Moabite pottery, Barium is higher in samples 6 and 8 (*ca.* 4000 ppm) than in the other samples where Ba is a factor of 10 or less. In samples 1–2 and 6–10 the abundance of Calcium is more than 20%. Also unusually high is the abundance of Lanthanum in samples 6 and 8, i.e. 67 and 76 ppm, these are the same samples with high levels of Ba. This means that all the rare earths in samples 6 and 8 are higher than in the remaining samples and in sample 6 Ytterbium is the highest (8.4 ppm). In samples 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10, Uranium occurs in abnormally high values (32–70 ppm) when compared to the normal values of 2–4 ppm that are present in samples 3 and 4 and medium high values (11–13 ppm) in samples 5, 6, 8 and 11. These

results indicate that Moabite pottery is entirely different from that in Edom and Judah (Table 8B).

Table 8A. List of Moabite ceramic samples

Moab 1 WT 13/A2	white ware pottery	Body sherd
Moab 2 WT 13/A2	brown ware pottery	Body sherd
Moab 3 WT 13/A2	pink ware pottery	Body sherd
Moab 4 WT 13/A2	red ware pottery	Body sherd
Moab 5 MT 61	MT/L34:5/9	Pillar figurine ¹
Moab 6 WT 13/165	WT A2:9/14	Statue
Moab 7 WT 13/166	WT A2:7/24	Statue
Moab 8 WT 13/168	WT A2:11/15	Statue
Moab 9 WT 13/169	WT A2:2/3	Statue
Moab 10 WT 13/15	WT A10:0.5/15	Naked figurine
Moab 11 WT 13/171	WT A2:14/16	Pillar figurine

¹Sigla include Site field + Square:Locus #/Pottery Pail #

Table 8B. Resulting comparison

Body 1	WT 13/A2
Body 2	WT 13/A2
Body 3	WT 13/A2
Body 4	WT 13/A2
Pillar 5	MT 61
Statue 6	WT 13/165
Statue 7	WT 13/166
Statue 8	WT 13/168
Statue 9	WT 13/169
Naked 10	WT 13/15
Pillar Fig 11	WT 13/171

When using Chi-Square Dissimilarity and Euclidean Distance measurements,¹ as well as Cluster Analysis, the combined result was that WT-13 samples 1, 2, 7 and 9 are similar to each other, but their fingerprint is not present in our data banks. These may

be a local product, although this cannot be confirmed without additional analysis of pottery from town sites in the region. A possible indication of this relationship is supported by the results from pillar figurine samples 5 from Mudayna Thamad and 11 from WT-13, since their fingerprints belong together and have no links to samples from Cisjordan or Edom. Only two samples are (6, 8) are similar to an oil lamp found at ʕEn Ḥaṣeva, which is interesting for its find spot, but does not say anything about the place where these lamps were made.

Finally, sample 3 does have a chemical similar to painted bowls from Busayra and to ʕEn Ḥaṣeva. The ʕEn Ḥaṣeva samples are “Edomite” vessels classified in the ʕEn Ḥaṣeva chemical group II that demonstrates the Edom connection. This implies that sample 3 may come from Edom. The final two samples, 4 and 10, are chemically unique (Table 8C).

Conclusion

The first conclusion from this analysis is that there is little connection between the anthropomorphic ceramic figures found at Ḥorvat Qitmit and ʕEn Ḥaṣeva and those at WT-13, even though the statues are stylistically similar. Apparently the statues at WT-13 were made in a local workshop.²

At this stage, no comparison with other Moabite and Ammonite pottery is possible.

A second conclusion is that the situation in Judah and the Negev district and its relations with Edom and Moab is more complex than previously thought, since only one sherd compares well with Edomite pottery.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks to all the archaeologists who have let us sample the pottery discussed in the present study; I. Beit Arieḥ for Ḥorvat Qitmit, P. Bienkowski, S. Hart and the late Mrs. C.- M.

Bennett for Edomite sites, R. Cohen and Y. Israel for  En Haşeva, and P. M. M. Daviau for WT-13 and Mudayna-Thamad. Thanks to Z. Molnar at the nuclear reactor in Budapest for her expert handling of the analyses and to L. Balazs for statistics throughout.

Notes

- 1 As incorporated in Mommsen *et al.* 1988.
- 2 This is also the assumption for the statues found at Tall Damiyah (see [Chapters 3, 4](#)), although this cannot be confirmed. A regional center of ceramic production is still possible.

Table 8C. List of individual Moab INAA data: Moabite samples, concentrations in ppm

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
As	9.7±0.3	18.1±0.4	6.9±0.2	6.7±0.3	10.2±0.2	5.9±0.2	20.9±0.2	5.5±0.2	15.4±0.3	17.5±0.4	9.2±0.3
Ba	1100±100	1450±130	1400±100	1400±100	1640±80	2900±100	760±60	4100±100	1300±70	1220±40	1060±90
Cu	24.33±0.24	27.61±0.27	13.55±0.14	12.40±0.12	14.15±0.15	22.04±0.22	22.03±0.23	18.04±0.38	24.81±0.25	26.76±0.27	15.43±0.31
Co	82.0±2.0	70.2±2.1	70.5±0.7	43.6±1.3	Xx	80.4±0.8	66.0±1.0	88.1±0.9	63.1±1.3	41.7±0.8	61.4±1.2
Ce	27.0±0.5	21.7±0.7	41.5±0.8	13.6±0.6	24.4±0.4	23.2±0.5	11.7±0.2	22.8±0.5	14.6±0.3	7.66±0.23	19.4±0.4
Cr	390±4	396±8	197±6	136±4	336±5	217±3	410±5	237±7	363±5	520±5	319±3
Cs	Xx	1.6±0.2	2.61±0.37	2.50±0.36	xx	1.88±0.19	1.14±0.18	1.63±0.20	0.86±0.09	0.63±0.07	1.72±0.22
Eu	1.59±0.11	1.64±0.11	1.65±0.10	0.91±0.09	1.76±0.07	2.89±0.09	1.59±0.06	3.14±0.09	1.54±0.08	0.99±0.05	1.63±0.08
Fe%	3.59±0.07	3.33±0.07	6.53±0.07	4.64±0.05	5.93±0.06	3.03±0.03	3.24±0.03	3.01±0.03	3.33±0.03	2.21±0.02	5.07±0.05
Hf	5.61±0.178	4.62±0.32	4.73±0.28	4.29±0.30	6.72±0.20	5.30±0.21	5.50±0.11	7.37±0.22	5.26±0.21	2.89±0.09	5.99±0.18
K%	xx	xx	1.36±0.13	1.84±0.15	2.08±0.10	xx	0.73±0.10	xx	xx	xx	xx
La	40.7±0.4	39.7±0.4	32.9±0.3	19.2±0.2	32.6±0.3	67.3±0.7	37.2±0.4	76.6±0.8	37.87±0.38	24.67±0.25	30.47±0.37
Lu	0.60±0.02	0.61±0.02	0.43±0.02	0.29±0.01	0.50±0.01	1.26±0.01	0.71±0.01	1.43±0.03	0.55±0.02	0.51±0.02	0.49±0.01
Na%	0.67±0.06	0.43±0.01	0.37±0.01	0.27±0.01	1.03±0.01	0.36±0.01	0.56±0.01	0.66±0.06	0.51±0.01	0.18±0.01	0.68±0.02
Nd	30±8	xx	28±8	26±6	28±6	57±5	30±5	74±7	31±6	26±3	34±5
Rb	xx	xx	48±10	60±10	xx	36±5	28±5	33±5	xx	xx	xx
Sb	xx	1.76±0.04	0.72±0.06	0.79±0.04	1.27±0.04	0.91±0.03	2.66±0.03	0.73±0.02	1.33±0.05	1.99±0.04	0.99±0.08
Se	13.6±0.2	12.4±0.12	20.8±0.2	16.0±0.2	20.8±0.2	14.1±0.14	12.9±0.2	15.3±0.2	11.5±0.1	9.1±0.1	18.9±0.2
Sm	10.3±0.2	7.66±0.15	6.68±0.07	4.15±0.04	6.71±0.07	11.71±0.12	8.43±0.08	13.12±0.13	6.97±0.14	5.44±0.11	6.64±0.07
Ta	1.09±0.15	1.38±0.16	1.41±0.16	1.12±0.16	1.33±0.12	0.95±0.09	0.77±0.09	0.95±0.09	0.94±0.09	0.35±0.07	1.23±0.11
Tb	0.99±0.19	Xx	1.2±0.2	xx	1.03±0.14	1.98±0.12	1.09±0.12	2.26±0.14	0.90±0.10	0.65±0.08	1.08±0.14
Ti	7.3±0.3	6.5±0.3	7.7±0.4	7.2±0.3	7.4±0.2	7.60±0.15	6.71±0.20	8.24±0.08	6.63±0.13	3.68±0.11	6.25±0.19
U	70±1	35.0±0.7	4.47±0.13	5.72±0.17	12.48±0.12	13.34±0.27	48.7±0.5	11.48±0.23	24.42±0.24	31.84±0.32	11.30±0.23
Yb	4.16±0.24	3.98±0.16	3.17±0.13	2.03±0.04	3.76±0.08	8.43±0.17	4.61±0.05	9.62±0.10	3.95±0.08	3.26±0.07	3.43±0.10
Zn	326±10	450±10	176±9	150±10	249±9	210±10	360±10	210±10	403±8	306±6	285±9

The WT-13 faunal bone collection

David Lipovitch

Introduction

A total of 5,781 fragments of animal bone were recovered and analyzed from the WT-13 site (see [Table 9A](#) and [Chart 9.1](#)).¹ All excavated material at the site was subjected to sieving through 0.6 cm screens, so this should represent a near 100% recovery of faunal remains at the site.² Of these fragments, 3,019 were assignable to individual strata. In most cases individual loci had samples that were too small to be of any statistical significance on their own. Those loci which had sufficiently large samples and which could be assigned to a specific stratum were further analyzed in the hopes of better understanding those individual contexts.

In general, the material recovered was poorly preserved. Nearly 26% of the collection consisted of fragments of mammal bone too small to be identified. More than 56% of the total consisted of longbone shaft fragments devoid of articular ends or other identifiable features. Most of these fragments were from medium-sized mammals (ovicaprids) but a sizeable number of small mammal longbone shafts were also recovered.

Table 9A. NISP for WT-13 (Sitewide)

<i>Taxon</i>	<i>NISP</i>
<i>Equus</i> sp.	1
Large mammal	37
<i>Gazella</i> sp.	1
<i>Capra hircus</i>	19
<i>Ovis aries</i>	17
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	410
Medium mammal	3,573
Small mammal	224
V. small mammal	6
Unidentified	1,488
Bird	2
Amphibian	1
Shell	2
Total	5,781

Given, however, that no small mammal species were identified in the collection (i.e. no canids or felids) and in a number of cases juvenile ovicaprid remains were identified, it is likely that these small mammal longbone shafts are also the remains of (juvenile) ovicaprids. If that is in fact the case, then this would make the collection almost entirely the remains of ovicaprids. The only other animals identified were *Equus* sp. (likely *Equus asinus* given the size of the one fragment), *Gazella* sp. (again represented by a lone identifiable fragment), bird (two unidentifiable fragments), and frog/toad (one fragment). A small amount of large mammal longbone shaft fragments were also recovered. Normally these would likely represent the remains of *Bos taurus* in such a collection but the complete absence of any identifiable articular ends, and the presence of the one identifiable fragment of equid suggests that they may represent the remains of donkey or horse.

While a significant number of mandibles were recovered they fairly consistently contained only the roots of teeth with the occlusal surfaces having been destroyed. Nearly 2% of the assemblage consisted of shattered fragments of ovicaprid teeth.

This results in quite a small sample of ageable bone for the site as a whole. Examination of the evidence provided by mandibular tooth wear (25 jaws and 74 ageable teeth; [Figs. 9.1, 9.2](#)) suggests that 25% mortality was reached around 12 months of age with 50% mortality at 3–4 years of age and 75% mortality at 6–8 years of age. Significant kill-offs appear to have happened at around 1 year and again at 4–6 years of age. Epiphysial fusion data (see [Fig. 9.3](#)) based on 42 ageable fragments suggests that 25% mortality was reached between 6–12 months of age, with 50% mortality at 12–18 months of age, and 75% mortality sometime after 24 months of age. These two data sets are somewhat contradictory and may suggest a combination of herding strategies. The significant number of neo-natal remains (13 of 42 fragments) suggests that young animals were being culled as is typical of a herding strategy focused on dairy production. The evidence for a significant kill-off around 1 year of age (the prime time for meat yield) suggests a strategy focused on meat production, while the significant amount of evidence for older animals is typical of strategies focused on wool and hair production.³ The only conclusion that can be reached from these data is that the inhabitants of the site were practicing a combination of strategies and that essentially all age ranges are represented in the sample which would be atypical of a sacrificial assemblage where older animals would be unusual.

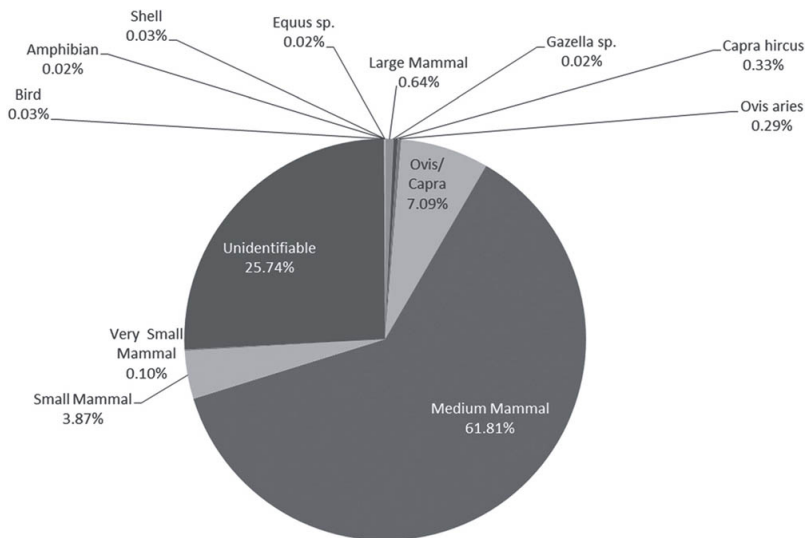


Chart 9.1. Relative distribution of taxa based on NISP

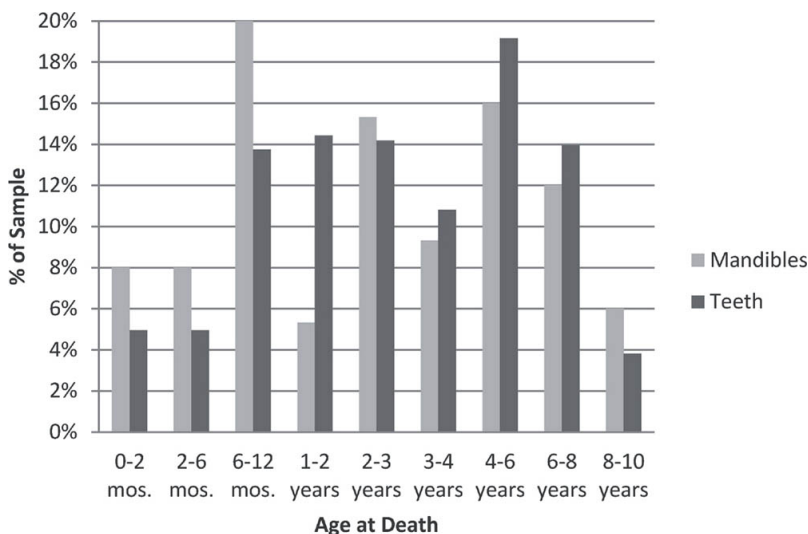


Figure 9.1. Age at death of ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear

The lack of preserved articular ends makes an analysis of body part distributions difficult. However, given what could be identified ([Chart 9.2](#)), it appears that there were very few foot bones (approximately 1% of the collection) suggesting that

butchering was conducted elsewhere. Similarly, there were very few hindlimb fragments (approximately 1% of the collection – most of those consisting, in fact, of pelvic fragments). Overwhelmingly, the collection consisted of food preparation debris (88% of the sample) with consumption debris representing only 10% of the sample.⁴ When elements were identifiable, there appears to have been a preference for cranial and axial cuts and secondarily for forelimb cuts. These are generally considered to be poorer cuts (the highest valued cuts are generally from the hindlimbs). Very few of the bones showed any signs of thermal alteration, cutmarks, or carnivore damage.

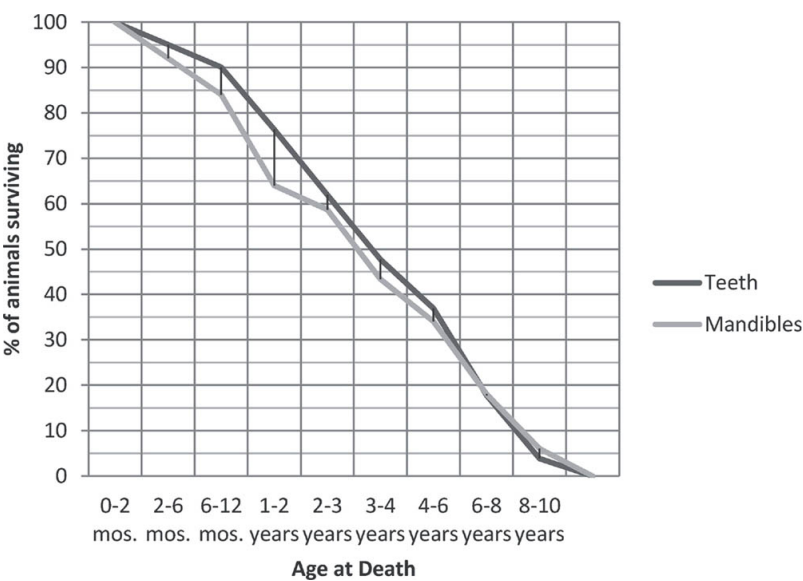


Figure 9.2. Survivorship curve for ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear

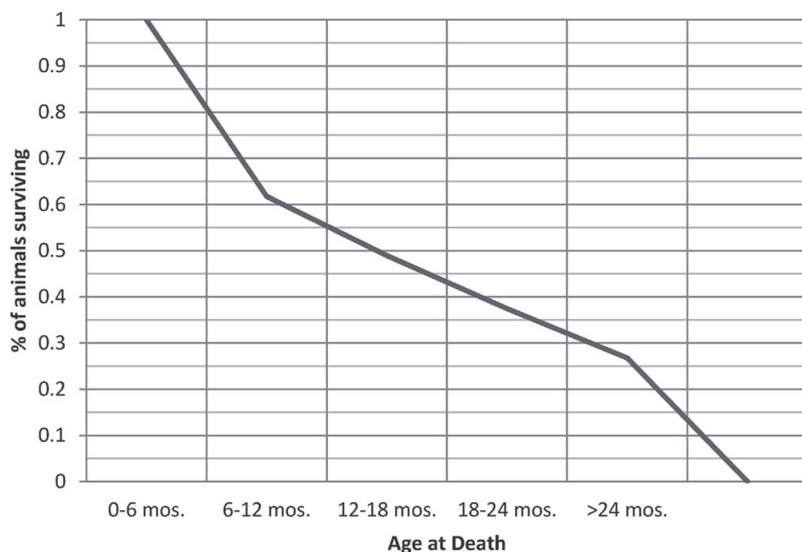


Figure 9.3. Survivorship curve for ovicaprids based on epiphyseal fusion

Four phases of Iron Age material were identified at WT-13: Strata IIA–C, and Stratum III. In all but one of these strata (IIa), the assemblages were sufficiently large to analyze in isolation. In some cases, individual loci contained sufficiently large samples for analysis.

Stratum III

A total of 1,163 fragments of animal bone were recovered and analyzed from Stratum III (Table 9B and Chart 9.3). Approximately 20% of the material from Stratum III was too poorly preserved to identify beyond being mammalian. No non-mammal remains were identified. Only medium-sized (gazelle, sheep, and goat) and small mammal remains were recognized. It is likely given the lack of any identified small mammal species that many of the small remains represent juvenile ovicaprids as well. Only six fragments were identifiable to species: one gazelle ascending ramus, two fragments of goat (a third phalanx and a proximal fused radio-ulna) and three fragments of sheep bone (a

proximal femur, a proximal metacarpal, and a first phalanx). A further 91 fragments were identifiable to the generic category of *Ovis/Capra*. The majority of the material recovered consisted of fragments identifiable only as medium-sized mammal (n=785, 67.5% of the sample).

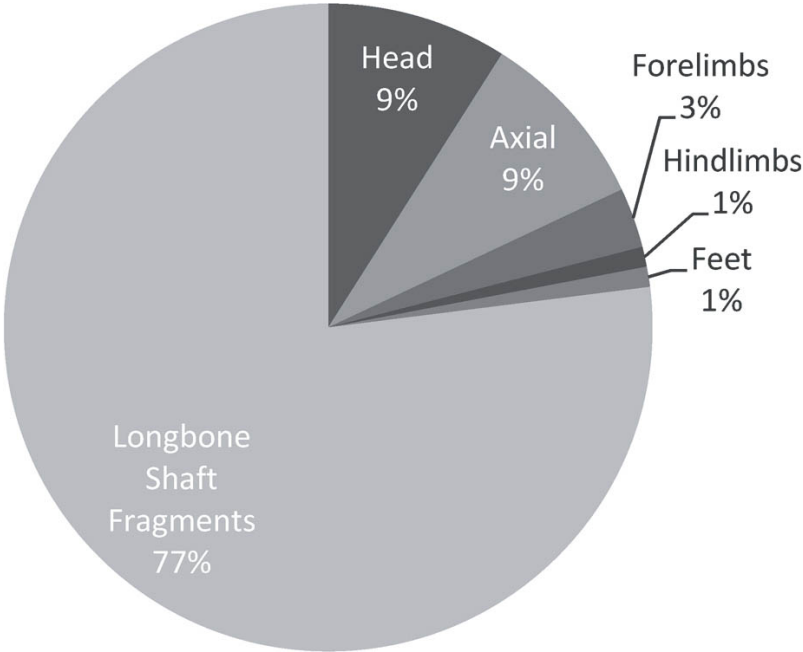


Chart 9.2. Distribution of ovicaprid body parts by region

Examining the individual loci from this stratum with sufficiently large samples yielded similar results. The typical finds for Stratum III are a collection consisting almost exclusively of ovicaprid remains. Between 14% and 26% of the samples from the individual loci consisted of unidentifiable fragments of poorly preserved mammal remains. Of the identifiable bone they consist of 83–86% medium-sized mammal remains, 5–7% small mammal remains, and 10–12% of the remains were identifiable as ovicaprids.

None of the individual loci had sufficiently large numbers of ageable teeth or mandibles to analyze. The Stratum III collection

as a whole, however, included eleven ageable jaws and a total of 32 ageable ovicaprid teeth (Figs. 9.4, 9.5). Based on both mandibular tooth rows and individual teeth, it appears that there was a significant culling of animals around the 4–6 year range and little evidence for any significant kill-off around one year of age (prime market age).

The presence of three identifiable neo-natal bone fragments as well as the significant amount of small mammal remains (in this particular case likely representing juvenile ovicaprids) suggests that there may have been a substantial culling of neo-natal and juvenile animals. This combination of older and very young animals being slaughtered would suggest that the animals were being raised primarily as part of dairy herds.

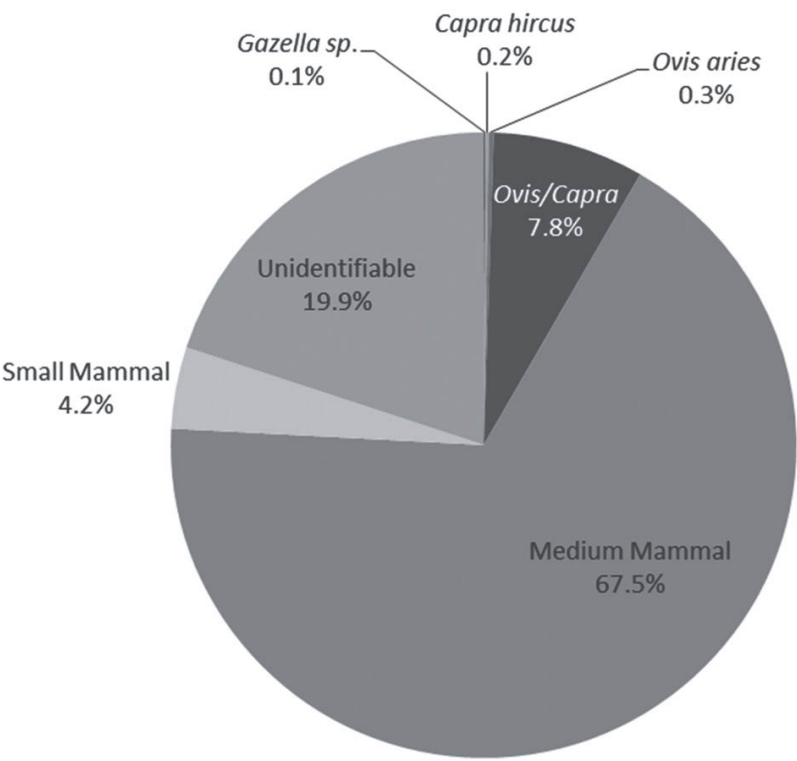


Chart 9.3. Relative distribution of taxa based on NISP for WT-13 Stratum III

Table 9B. NISP for WT-13 Stratum III

Locus	Gazella sp.	Capra hircus	Ovis aries	Ovis/ Capra	Medium mammal	Small mammal	Unidentifiable	Total
ALL	1	2	3	91	785	49	232	1,163
A1:40	0	1	1	48	389	25	73	537
A7:5	1	1	1	25	228	19	80	355
A7:8=A8:13	0	0	1	16	120	2	54	193

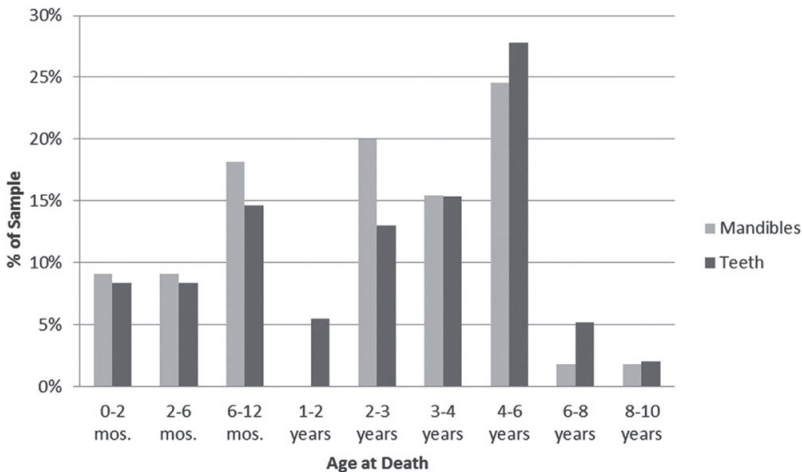


Figure 9.4. Age at death of ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear for WT-13 Stratum III

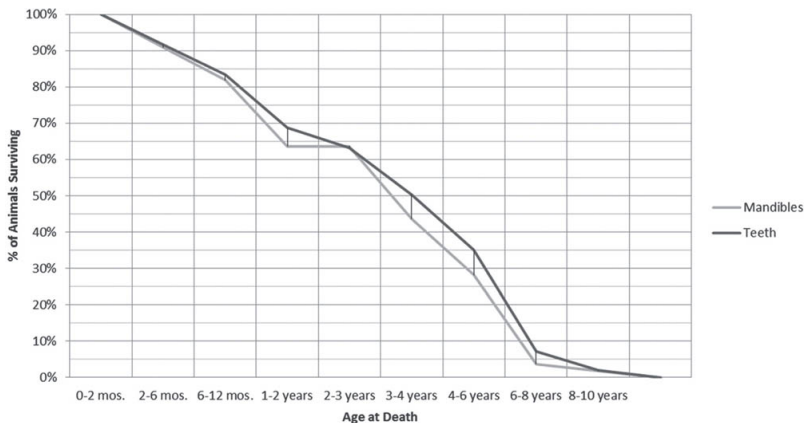


Figure 9.5. Survivorship curve for ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear for WT-13 Stratum III

Looking at body part distributions in each of the loci suggests that in each case, the material consisted of mostly food

preparation debris. The huge amount of longbone shaft fragments is typical of food preparation rather than consumption. In the four loci examined, the samples consisted of 80–86% preparation debris with 3% or less of the material representing finds typical of butchery. The remaining 14–21% of the material was either clearly the remains of food consumption (cranial fragments) or remains which could either be preparation or consumption debris (vertebrae and ribs). This would suggest that loci A1:40 (fill from cooking installation A1:41), A7:5, and A7:8=A8:13 (a cobble surface) were all areas of food preparation, and that it is unlikely that any butchering of the animals occurred locally.

Stratum IIC

A total of 1,383 fragments of animal bone were recovered and analyzed from Stratum IIC (Table 9C and Chart 9.4). Approximately 32% of the material from Stratum IIC was too poorly preserved to identify beyond being mammalian. No non-mammal remains were identified. Large, medium, and small mammal remains were identified within the stratum, however *Ovis aries* and *Capra hircus* were the only species identified. The large mammal remains likely represent *Bos taurus* or equid remains. It is likely given the lack of any identified small mammal species that many of the small remains represent juvenile ovicaprids as well. Only three fragments were identifiable to species: a left proximal *Capra* radius, the fused radio-ulna shaft of a second *Capra*, and the left pubis of an *Ovis*. A further 115 fragments were identifiable to the generic category of *Ovis/Capra*. The majority of the material recovered consisted of fragments identifiable only as medium-sized mammal (n = 839, 60.7% of the sample).

Table 9C. NISP for WT-13 Stratum IIC

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Large mammal</i>	<i>Capra hircus</i>	<i>Ovis aries</i>	<i>Ovis/ Capra</i>	<i>Medium mammal</i>	<i>Small mammal</i>	<i>Unidentifiable</i>	<i>Total</i>
ALL	7	2	1	115	839	39	380	1,383
A1:33	6	1	0	62	353	15	194	631
A1:38	1	1	1	13	104	5	37	163
A1:39	0	0	0	38	310	19	110	466
A7:3	1	0	0	7	94	0	45	187

Examining the individual loci from this stratum with sufficiently large samples yielded similar results. The typical finds for Stratum IIC are a collection consisting almost exclusively of ovicaprid remains. Between 23% and 34% of the samples from the individual loci consisted of unidentifiable fragments of poorly preserved mammal remains. The identifiable bone was 80–89% medium-sized mammal remains, 3–5% small mammal remains, and 7–14% of the remains were identifiable as ovicaprids.

None of the individual loci had sufficiently large numbers of ageable teeth or mandibles to analyze. The Phase IIC collection as a whole, however, included nine ageable jaws and a total of 22 ageable ovicaprid teeth (Figs. 9.6, 9.7). Based on both mandibular tooth rows and individual teeth, it appears that there was a significant culling of animals around the 2–3 and 6–8 year range and little evidence for any significant kill-off around 1 year of age (prime market age). No neo-natal fragments of bone were identified and dental wear evidence also suggests that no neo-natal remains are represented. The presence a significant amount of small mammal remains (in this particular case likely representing juvenile ovicaprids) suggests that there may have been a substantial culling of juvenile animals under the age of 1 year. This combination of older and very young animals being slaughtered would suggest that the animals were being raised primarily for secondary products. The very high number of much older animals and the lack of evidence for neo-natal animals would seem to suggest that the ovicaprids raised during the occupation of Stratum IIC were being raised primarily for wool or hair.

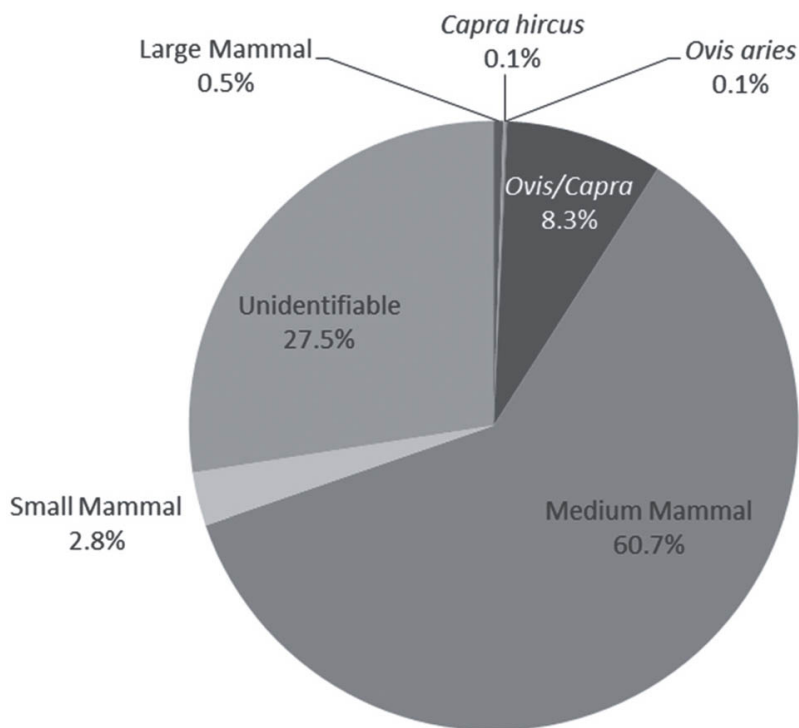


Chart 9.4. Relative distribution of taxa based on NISP for WT-13 Stratum IIC

Looking at body part distributions in each of the loci suggests that in each case, the material consisted of mostly food preparation debris. The huge amount of longbone shaft fragments is typical of food preparation rather than consumption. In the four loci examined, the samples consisted of 71–93% preparation debris with 2% or less of the material representing finds typical of butchery. The remaining 20–29% of the material was either clearly the remains of food consumption (cranial fragments) or remains which could either be preparation or consumption debris (vertebrae and ribs). This would suggest that loci A1:33, A1:38, A1:39, and A7:3 were all areas of food preparation, and that it is unlikely that any butchering of the animals occurred locally.

Stratum IIB

A total of 430 fragments of animal bone were recovered and analyzed from Stratum IIB (see [Table 9D](#) and [Chart 9.5](#)). None of the samples from any of the individual loci in the stratum had a sufficiently large sample for analysis. Approximately 22% of the material from Stratum IIB was too poorly preserved to identify beyond being mammalian. No non-mammal remains were identified. Large, medium, and small mammal remains were identified within the stratum, however *Ovis aries* and *Capra hircus* were the only species identified. The very small number of large mammal remains (n=3, 0.7% of the samples) likely represent *Bos taurus* or equid remains. It is likely given the lack of any identified small mammal species that many of the small remains (n=21, 3.3% of the sample) represent juvenile ovicaprids as well. Only three fragments were identifiable to species: the fused radio-ulna shaft of a *Capra*, an *Ovis* first phalanx, and an *Ovis* distal metacarpal. A further 38 fragments were identifiable to the generic category of *Ovis/Capra*. The majority of the material recovered consisted of fragments identifiable only as medium-sized mammal (n=270, 62.8% of the sample). It is likely that 93% of the remains – the combination of the clearly identified with the medium and small mammal remains – are those of ovicaprids.

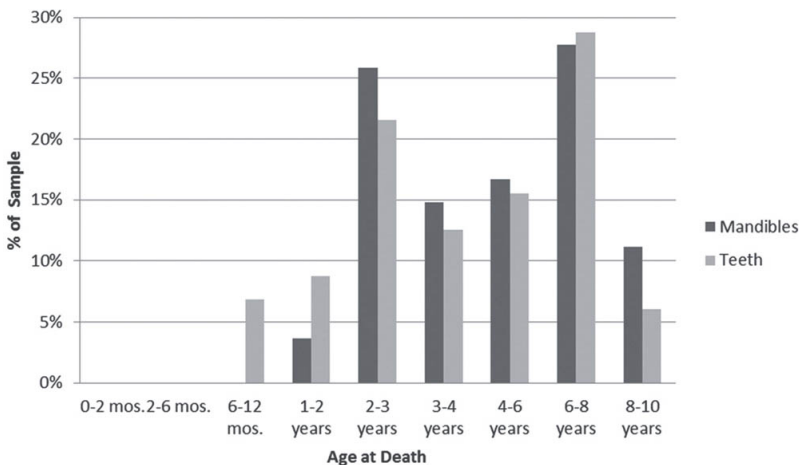


Figure 9.6. Age at death of ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear for

WT-13 Stratum IIC

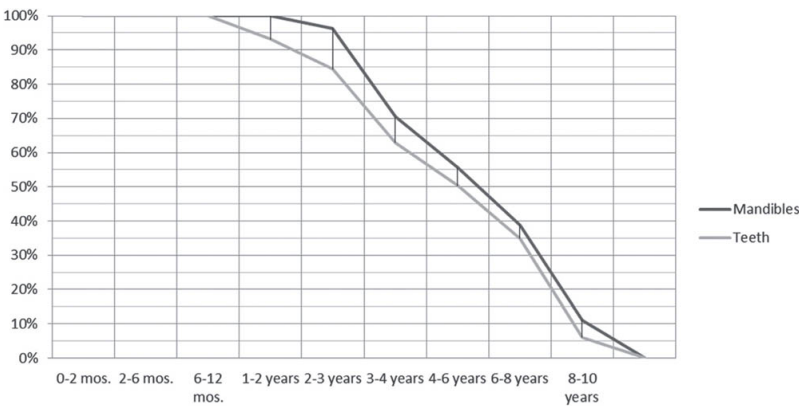


Figure 9.7. Survivorship curve for ovicaprids based on mandibular tooth wear for WT-13 Stratum IIC

Table 9D. NISP for WT-13 Stratum IIB

1157
Large mammal
Capra hircus
Ovis aries
Ovis/Capra
Medium mammal
Small mammal
Unidentifiable
7301

Examining the individual loci from this stratum with sufficiently large samples yielded similar results. The typical finds for Stratum IIB are a collection consisting almost exclusively of ovicaprid remains. Between 23% and 31% of the samples from the individual loci consisted of unidentifiable fragments of poorly preserved mammal remains. Of the identifiable bone they consist of 71–95% medium-sized mammal remains, 3–28% small mammal remains, and 5–14% of the remains were identifiable as ovicaprids.

Given their small sample sizes, none of the individual loci had

sufficiently large numbers of ageable teeth or mandibles to analyze. The Phase IIB collection as a whole, in fact only included a lone ageable jaw (from an animal aged 0–2 months of age) and a total of four ageable ovicaprid teeth. It is therefore very difficult to say much about the culling and harvesting pattern of this stratum. The presence of neo-natal tooth and bone and the lack of any evidence for any animals older than 6 years of age at death might suggest that the animals were not being raised for wool or hair, but this is not definitive. The presence of only a small amount of small mammal remains (in this particular case likely representing juvenile ovicaprids) may suggest that there was no substantial culling of young animals. Unfortunately, the sample is simply too small to make any definitive statements.

Stratum IIA

A total of 43 fragments of animal bone were recovered and analyzed from Stratum IIA. This was really too small a sample to be of any sort of significance. As a result, none of the samples from any of the individual loci in the stratum had a sufficiently large sample for analysis either. Approximately 16% of the material from Stratum IIA was too poorly preserved to identify beyond being mammalian. No non-mammal remains were identified. Medium and small mammal remains were identified within the stratum, as were generic ovicaprids. No remains were identified to species ([Table 9E](#)). The majority of the material recovered consisted of fragments identifiable only as medium-sized mammal ($n=29$, 67.4% of the sample). It is likely that all of the remains – the combination of the clearly identified with the medium and small mammal remains – are those of ovicaprids. No ageable remains were recovered from this stratum.

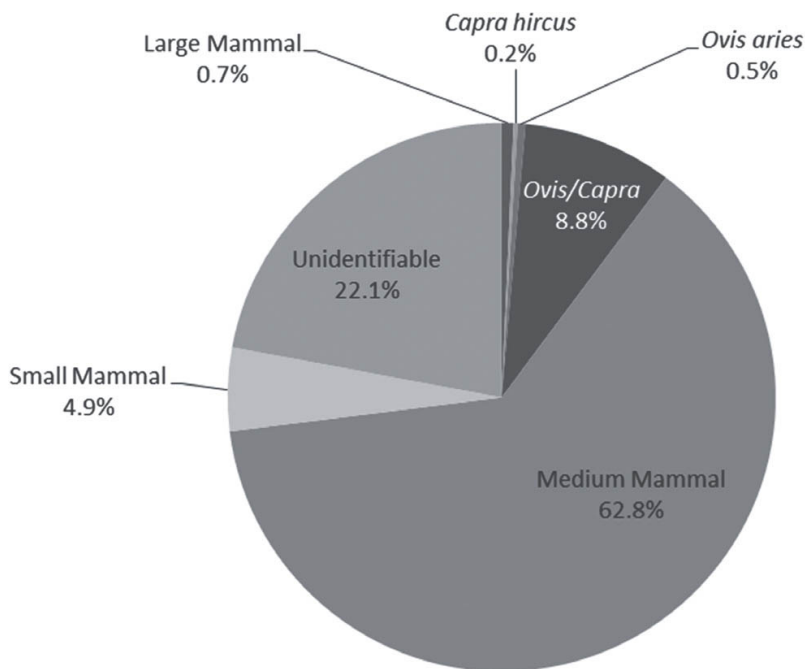


Chart 9.5. Relative distribution of taxa based on NISP for WT-13 Stratum IIB

Table 9E. NISP for WT-13 Stratum IIA

NISP
Ovis/Capra
Medium mammal
Small mammal
Unidentifiable
Total

Conclusions

The faunal material collected from WT-13 represents a fairly small collection of generally poorly preserved bone. It is almost exclusively composed of ovicaprid remains with only a few examples of bone from other taxa including *Equus asinus*, *Gazella* sp., unidentified bird, and frog or toad. Notably lacking in the collection were *Bos taurus* and *Sus scrofa* remains.

The ovicaprid remains consisted overwhelmingly of longbone

shaft fragments (88% of the sample). Very little evidence was found for butchering of the animals locally (only 25 of the fragments were typical of butchering remains) and fairly little evidence was seen for local consumption of the remains. This would seem to suggest that the areas excavated were being used primarily for the preparation of food.

Given the small sample sizes and preservation issues, it was difficult to assess herding strategies based on the ages at death of the ovicaprids. Examination of the overall collection would suggest mixed strategies of raising the animals both for meat and for secondary products. Examination of the individual sub-samples from the identified strata would suggest strategies based primarily on secondary products. Goats and sheep appear to have been raised in roughly equal amounts with a slight preference for goat.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Lynn Welton for her editing and helpful feedback on various drafts of this study.

Notes

- 1 The faunal remains were identified in the absence of a comparative collection. Identifications were based primarily on experience and illustrations in standard zooarchaeological and veterinary manuals of comparative osteology including: Barone 1976; Boessneck 1963; Boessneck *et al* 1964; Hillson 1992; Schmid 1972. The aging of individual remains was based on Payne 1985 and on Silver 1963. All measurements taken are those defined in von den Driesch 1976.
- 2 In addition to the bones, two shell fragments were also present. The full data are included in the WT-13 online archive (Appendices 1–4).
- 3 The age at which sheep and goats are slaughtered and consumed is a reflection of herding strategies. Culling of herds and slaughtering of animals for meat will occur at different times based on whether the end goal of raising the animals is predominantly

the production of meat, dairy products, or hair and wool. In herds raised predominantly for meat, the animals are mostly slaughtered around one year of age when the animals will produce the most good quality meat for the least amount of investment in time and energy. Some culling of young male animals may occur to avoid rivalry among males (though castration is an alternative option) and small number of animals will be kept alive well past their peak meat-production age for breeding purposes. In a herd being raised predominantly for hair or wool production, the animals will be kept alive longer since they can still produce decent quality hair and wool well beyond the point at which they are no longer prime quality meat. This will result in much older animals (beyond three years of age) being found in abundance in a sample. Again there may be some culling of younger animals. If the animals are being raised for dairy products there will be a significant culling of young male animals which will not provide the desired product and will compete with humans for its consumption. The animals can produce a reasonable volume of milk well past the point at which they are no longer prime meat, but not for as long as they could produce quality hair or wool. As such, they are typically slaughtered at an earlier age than those being raised for hair and wool production.

4 As part of an investigation into traditional butchery and cuisine practices, Grantham conducted ethnographic studies of traditional meat-cutting practices in the Druze village of Buqata. Using this ethnographic data as an analogical model for understanding ancient butchering techniques, Grantham created an analytical model applicable to archaeological collections. Bone fragments from excavated sheep and goat remains are grouped into two analytical categories: consumption debris reflecting bones that remain with the meat when served (crania, sternum, distal ribs, and rib shafts) and preparation debris (scapulae, humeri, radii, ulnae, innominates, femorae, tibiae, proximal ribs, and thoracic and lumbar vertebrae). For more information see Grantham 1992 and Grantham *et al.* 2003). Phalanges, carpals, tarsals, and metapodia are considered here to be butchering debris since there is little edible meat on sheep and goat trotters (unlike beef and pork trotters) and they are often discarded (intact) at the site of

butchering.

It is unclear whether Grantham includes longbone shaft fragments in his calculations when they have not been identified to the elemental level. Since it is likely that many of these fragments represent preparation debris (since only the remains of phalanges which are usually identifiable as such and of metapodia would not be preparation debris but more likely evidence of butchering) they are classified as such here.

It seems odd that Grantham assumes that meat was never served on the bone when longbone-associated meat cuts were involved. While this may be the case in the Druze community (or simply in his study where he may not have actually seen typical practices) it would seem not to be the case in much of the rest of the Mediterranean culinary world. I Samuel 2:13–15 suggests that meat was often boiled for consumption and it would seem to this analyst and amateur *chef de cuisine* that marrow-, fat-, and flavour-filled longbones would not be discarded if it were possible to include them in the cooking process. So, while it is assumed here, based on Grantham, that longbone shaft fragments, which form the bulk of the sample, are preparation debris, they may in fact also represent, to an uncertain degree, consumption debris as well. This would be more in line with ceramic evidence which included primarily open serving vessels.

Recent shells and fossil invertebrates from WT-13

David S. Reese

Introduction

Site WT-13 is located 120 km from the Mediterranean Sea and 230 km from the Red Sea. These excavations yielded 21 shells from the Mediterranean Sea, 19 invertebrates from the Red Sea, one fresh-water gastropod, and 25 fossils, including four sea urchins ([Chapter 11](#)).

Several loci produced concentrations of remains: A2:21 produced five shells and three fossils; A2:11 four shells; and A4:4 three invertebrates and one fossil.

Mediterranean shells

The Mediterranean shells include: seven *Hexaplex trunculus* (murex), three *Bolinus brandaris* (murex), five *Nassarius gibbosulus* (basket or nassa shell), two *Charonia* (trumpet shell or triton), one *vermetid* (worm shell), one *Semicassis* (helmet shell), one *Glycymeris nummaria* (dog cockle), and one *Fasciolaria lignaria* (tulip or spindle shell).

Red Sea marine invertebrates

The Red Sea invertebrates include: four *Tridacna* (giant clam), four *Monetaria annulus* (cowrie), three *Erisaria turdus* (cowrie), three *Stylophora pistillata*/*Pocillophora verrucosa* (coral), two *Conus*/*Strombus* (cone shell/stromb), one *Marginella monilis* (margin shell), one *Oliva* (olive shell), and one *Lambis truncata sebae* (spider conch).

It is worth noting that 17 of the 40 recent invertebrates were definitely collected already dead on the beach (six murex, three *Nassarius*, two *Tridacna*, one *Charonia*, the *Semicassis*, the *Glycymeris*, one coral, one *Conus*/*Strombus*, and the *Oliva*).

There are eight remains that come from three loci which also produced Roman remains. Square A1:14 produced one fossil bivalve. Clean-up in Square A2 produced two shells and three fossils, while A2:50 produced a Mediterranean shell and the only fresh-water shell.

Several shells are holed and were probably ornaments: five *Nassarius*, seven cowries, two *Conus*/*Strombus* apex beads, four murex, three *Glycymeris*, the *Marginella*, and the *Oliva*. One of the fossil sea urchins (WT 129) has definite drilled indentations on both surfaces while a second (WT 120) has slight indentations on both surfaces suggesting that someone began to drill the fossil ([Chapter 11](#)). Other worked fossil urchins from Jordan have been published by McNamara (2002).

Detailed Iron Age comparanda on these shells have been noted elsewhere for murex (Reese 1986:330), cowries (Reese 1986:328–329, 332; 1991; 1995a:93; 2002:278–279; 2011:110; Reese *et al.* 2002:458), *Tridacna* (Reese 1988b; 1991; 1995a:93; 2002:279; 2011:111; Reese *et al.* 2002:454–458), *Nassarius* (Reese 1986:320, 331), coral (Reese *et al.* 2002:460–461), *Conus*/*Strombus* (Reese 1986:324–326; 1991; 2002:280; 2011:111; Reese *et al.* 2002:460), *Charonia* (Reese *et al.* 2002:462), *Glycymeris* (Reese 1995a:93, 96; 2002:277–278; 2011:111; Reese *et al.* 2002:461), *Lambis* (Reese 1991; 1995a:96; 2002:280–281; Reese *et*

al. 2002:458–459), *Marginella* (Reese 1991:165, 167), *Oliva* (Reese 1991:166, 167), *Vermetid* (Reese *et al.* 2002:462), *Semicassis* (Reese 1989), and fossils (Reese 2002:281–282; 2011:111; Reese *et al.* 2002:441–454).

Of special relevance to the shells at WT-13 are those found at the Edomite shrine at Ḥorvat Qiṭmit in the Negev, about 160 km from the Red Sea. Here were found 18 *Monetaria* with an open dorsum (Mienis 1995:276–279: fig. 6.6).

Recent Mediterranean marine invertebrates

Square A1

A1:39 (Hard-packed soil)

Semicassis – (WT 488; Fig. 10.1:1); water-worn, lip, L 42.25, W/T 6.75×8.25 .

A1:40 (Stone-lined cooking area)

Charonia – (WT 497); body fragment, L 25.5, W 13.25.

A1:43 (Loose ash within Cooking Installation A1:44)

Nassarius – (WT 549); water-worn, worn apex, irregular wide hole on distal body, L 13.0, W 9.75, hole 2.75×5.0 .

Square A2

A2:0.5 (Clean-up, Iron II and Roman)

Glycymeris – (WT 238; Fig. 10.1:2); very water-worn, punched hole near umbo (ancient), H 22, W 20.25, hole 2.25.

A2:2 (Soil layer)

Hexaplex – (WT 36; Fig. 10.1:3); water-worn, large, L 63.75, W 50.25.

Bolinus – (WT 39; Fig. 10.1:4); water-worn, pitted, broken distal, broken lip, L 53.5, W 41.0.

Hexaplex – (WT 52; Fig. 10.1:5); worn, hole on body, L 40.25, W 29.25, hole 6.25×7.75 .

Hexaplex – (WT 198); water-worn distal/columella/body

fragment, L 29.5, W 18.75.

A2:6 (Soil layer)

Bolinus – (WT 60; Fig. 10.1:6); fresh, hole on body, slightly broken lip and distal, L 44, W ca. 32, hole 9.50×8.75 .

A2:11 (Hard-packed soil)

Bolinus – (WT 108; Fig. 10.1:7); worn, broken distal, slightly broken lip, nice circular hole in lower body made by boring gastropod, L 51 + , W 50.25, hole 3.25.

Hexaplex – (WT 112); fresh, L 57, W 49.

A2:28 (Soil layer)

Hexaplex – (WT 152); very water-worn, hole on body (irregular), L 50.25, W 42.25, hole 4.25×3.25 .

A2:50 (Soil layer; found near edge of central depression) (Iron II and Early Roman)

Nassarius – (WT 389) water-worn, hole on lower dorsum near lip, L 14.5, W 9.75, hole 3.25×3.75 .

A2:63 (Soil layer)

Nassarius – (WT 476; Fig. 10.1:8); worn, pitted, hole on lower dorsum, L 14.75, W 10.25, hole 2.00.

Square A3

A3:5 (Fill)

Vermetid – (WT 354; Fig. 10.1:9); L 60.25, interior D 7.25 mm.

Square A4

A4:4 (Rock-fall layer; Iron I–II)

Nassarius – (WT 496; Fig. 10.1:10); worn, small hole on lower dorsum near lip, L 15.75, W 11.25, hole 1.25.

A4:5 (Soil layer)

Hexaplex – (WT 265); water-worn, broken lip and body, lacks distal, L 49.00, W 30.25.

A4:8 (Soil layer)

Hexaplex – (WT 357); worn, L 38.00, W 30.25.

Square A5

A5:8 (Plaster layer)

Charonia siphonal notch – (WT 378; Fig. 10.1:11); water-worn, pitted, L 50.75, W 20.75.

A5:10 (Soil layer)

Fasciolaria – (WT 330; Fig. 10.1:12); broken lip, L 52.25, W 22.

Square A9

A9:1 (Rock pile)

Nassarius – (WT 464); water-worn, large hole on lower dorsum near lip, L 13.25, W 10, hole 3.5 × 3.

Recent Red Sea invertebrates

Square A1

A1:17 (Rocky soil)

Lambis – (WT 271; Fig. 10.2:1) upper body fragment, fresh, L 13, W 36.

A1:33 (Hard-packed soil)

Monetaria – (WT 445; Fig. 10.2:2) open dorsum, L 19.75, W 14.25, H 5.75, opening 14 × 9.25.

Square A2

A2:0.5 (Clean-up, Iron II and Roman)

Conus/Strombus – (WT 214; Fig. 10.2:3) apex bead – holed apex, ground-down apex, D 27.75, H 8.75, hole 3.25.

A2:2 (Soil layer)

Tridacna – (WT 197); fresh, small distal fragment, medium/large valve, H 28.75, W 21.25.

A2:11 (Hard-packed soil)

Tridacna – (WT 34; Fig. 10.2:4) water-worn, hinge and side

piece, medium, H 41, W 52.

Oliva – (WT 106; Fig. 10.2:5) water-worn, has very slight color near lip, holed apex, L 29, W 16, hole 2.5×3.75 .

A2:22 (Boulder layer)

Erosaria – (WT 116) open dorsum, smoothed opening, L 23.75, W 17, H 6.75, opening 16×11.5 .

Erosaria – (WT 130) open dorsum (partly smoothed), L 21.75, W 6.75, H 5.75, opening 15.25×11.25 .

A2:29 (Group of cobbles)

Tridacna – (WT 144; Fig. 10.2:6) rather fresh, hinge, side and distal piece, small, most of height present, H 62.75, W 68.75.

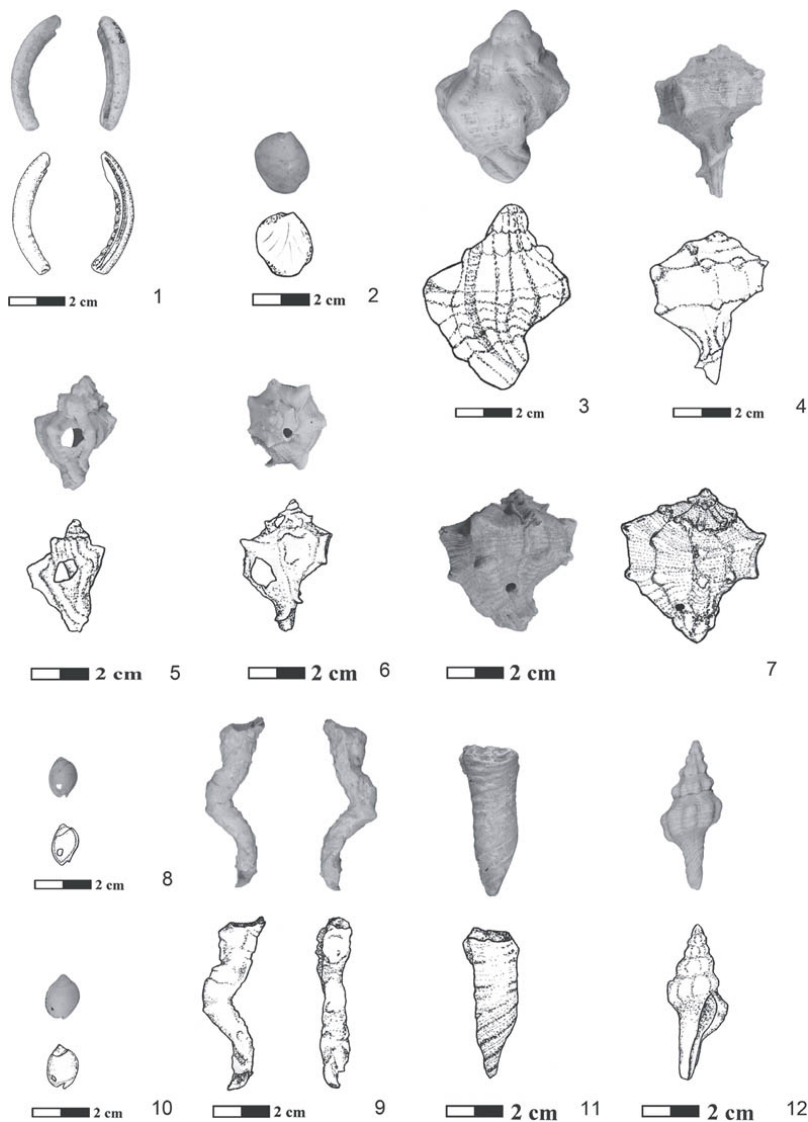


Figure 10.1. Recent Mediterranean marine invertebrates: 1) *Semicassis*, WT 488; 2) *Glycymeris*, WT 238; 3) *Hexaplex*, WT 36; 4) *Bolinus*, WT 39; 5) *Hexaplex*, WT 52; 6) *Bolinus*, WT 60; 7) WT 108; 8) *Nassarius*, WT 476; 9) *Vermetid*, WT 354; 10) *Nassarius*, WT 496; 11) *Charonia* siphonal notch, WT 378; 12) *Fasciolaria*, WT 330

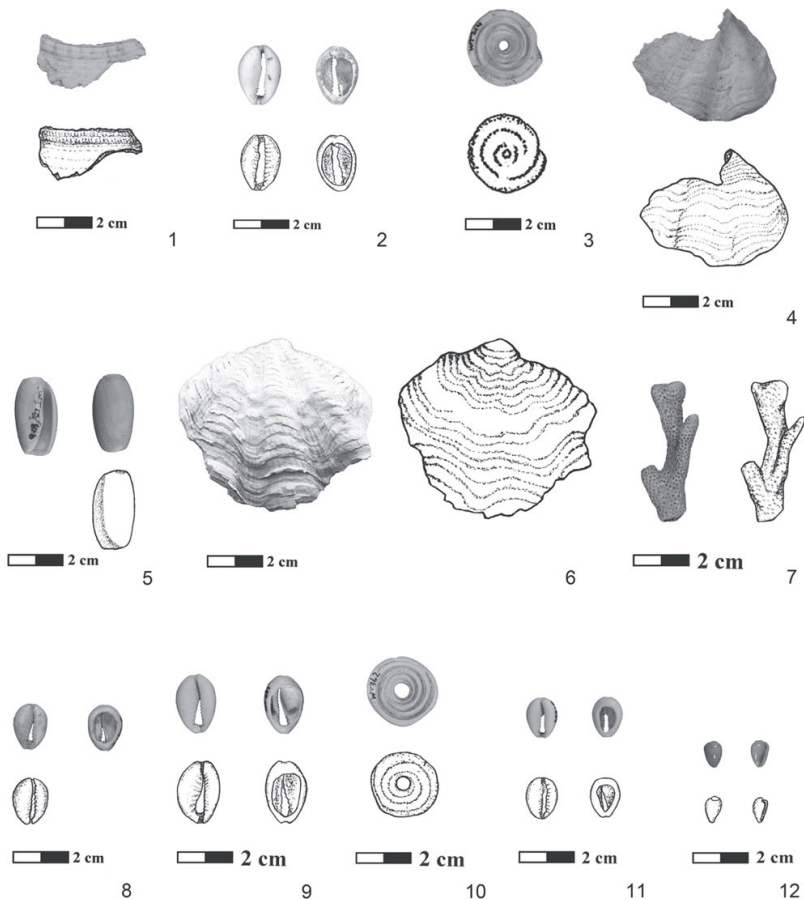


Figure 10.2. Recent Red Sea invertebrates: 1) *Lambis*, WT 271; 2) *Monetaria*, WT 445; 3) *Conus/Strombus*, WT 214; 4) *Tridacna*, WT 34; 5) *Oliva*, WT 106; 6) *Tridacna*, WT 144; 7) *Stylophora/Pocillophora*, WT 227; 8) *Monetaria*, WT 367; 9) *Erosaria*, WT 331; 10) *Conus/Strombus* apex bead, WT 362; 11) *Monetaria*, WT 534; 12) *Marginella*, WT 569

Square A3

A3:1 (Topsoil)

Tridacna – (WT 526); hinge fragment, water-worn, small, W 33.25, H 21.00.

A3:5 (Fill)

Stylophora/Pocillophora – (WT 356) L 29, W 21.

Square A4

A4:4 (Rock-fall layer)

Stylophora/Pocillophora – (WT 227; Fig. 10.2:7); water-worn, L 49.25, W 22.25.

Stylophora/Pocillophora – (WT 501) L 26.25, W 16.

A4:5 (Soil layer)

Monetaria – (WT 367; Fig. 10.2:8) ground-down dorsum, L 16.25, W 12.25, H 5.25, opening 10.75×7.75 .

Square A5

A2:10 (Soil layer)

Erosaria – (WT 331; Fig. 10.2:9) open dorsum (partly smoothed), L 22, W 15.25, H 7, opening 14×10.75 .

Square A6

A6:16 (Soil layer)

Monetaria – (WT 483) ground-down dorsum, one half preserved, L 17, H 5, opening L 12.75.

Square A10

A10:0.5 (Surface, random finds)

Conus/Strombus apex bead – (WT 362; Fig. 10.2:10) holed apex, water-worn, D 23.25, H 7.50, hole 4.75–5.25.

Monetaria – (WT 534; Fig. 10.2:11); ground-down dorsum, L 14.5, W 11.25, H 5.25, opening 9.25×5.75 .

Marginella – (WT 569; Fig. 10.2:12); has bright gloss, fresh, holed apex, L 9.25, W 6.25, hole.

Fresh-water gastropod

Square A2

A2:50 (Soil layer; found near edge of central depression) (Iron II and Early Roman)

Melanopsis praemorsa – (WT 568) smooth, broken distal, has color, medium, L 13, W 6.25.

Fossil invertebrates

Square A1

A1:14 (Rocky soil) (Iron Age and Roman)

bivalve – (WT 293; Fig. 10.3:1); H 46, W 55.5, T 18.75.

A1:15 (Soil layer)

gastropod – (WT 279; Fig. 10.3:2); H 8.5, W 6.8.

A1:25 (Soil layer)

bivalve internal mould – (WT 316); H 25.25, W 22.75, T 13.00. A1:33 (Hard-packed soil)

Coenholactypus (sea urchin) – (WT 458); see McNamara below ([Chapter 11](#)).

A1:39 (Hard-packed soil)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 486; Fig. 10.3:3)
broken apex and distal, L 28, W 22.25.

Squares A2 + A1

A2:2 (Soil layer) + A1:1 (Topsoil)

ammonite fragment – (WT 51 + 251; Fig. 10.3:4); L 90, W 28.

Square A2

A2:0.5 (Clean-up)

bivalve – (WT 54; Fig. 10.3:5); H 29.25, W 33.25, T 15.75.

A2:39 = A2:0.5 (Clean-up)

brachiopod – (WT 212; Fig. 10.3:6); H 23.75, W 23.75, T 16.25.

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 222; Fig. 10.3:7); slightly broken apex and distal, L 40.25, W 22.50.

A2:55 (Soil above bedrock)

fusiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 236), (not

studied), L 33.0, W 15.0.

A2:2 (Soil layer)

trochiform gastropod – (WT 50; Fig. 10.3:8); slightly broken apex, broken distal, L 23.75, W 19.25.

fusiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 49; Fig. 10.4:1); large, L 58, W 39.

A2:6 (Soil layer)

Mecaster (sea urchin) – (WT 59); see McNamara ([Chapter 11](#)).

A2:7 (Soil layer)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 117); broken apex and distal, L 33, W 20.5.

large regular sea urchin – (WT 120) see McNamara ([Chapter 11](#)).

brachiopod – (WT 135); has some matrix on it, H 22.75, W 22, T 23 (cracked).

A2:22 (Boulder layer)

sea urchin – (WT 129) see McNamara below ([Chapter 11](#)).

A2:52 (Soil layer)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 309; Fig. 10.3:9); broken apex and distal, L 30.25, W 21.25 × 19.

Square A3

A3:5 (Fill)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 368; Fig. 10.3:10) worn, slightly broken apex and distal, L 35.25, W 16.75.

Square A4

A4:1 (Topsoil)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 206) central section, broken, L 16.75, W 15.25.

A4:4 (Rock-fall layer)

bivalve – (WT 285; Fig. 10.4:2) slightly crushed, H 40, W 46.75, T 11.5.

A4:5 (Soil layer)

gastropod internal mould (*Nerinea/Nerinella*) – (WT 364; Fig. 10.4:3) center part, L 25.50, W 17.75.

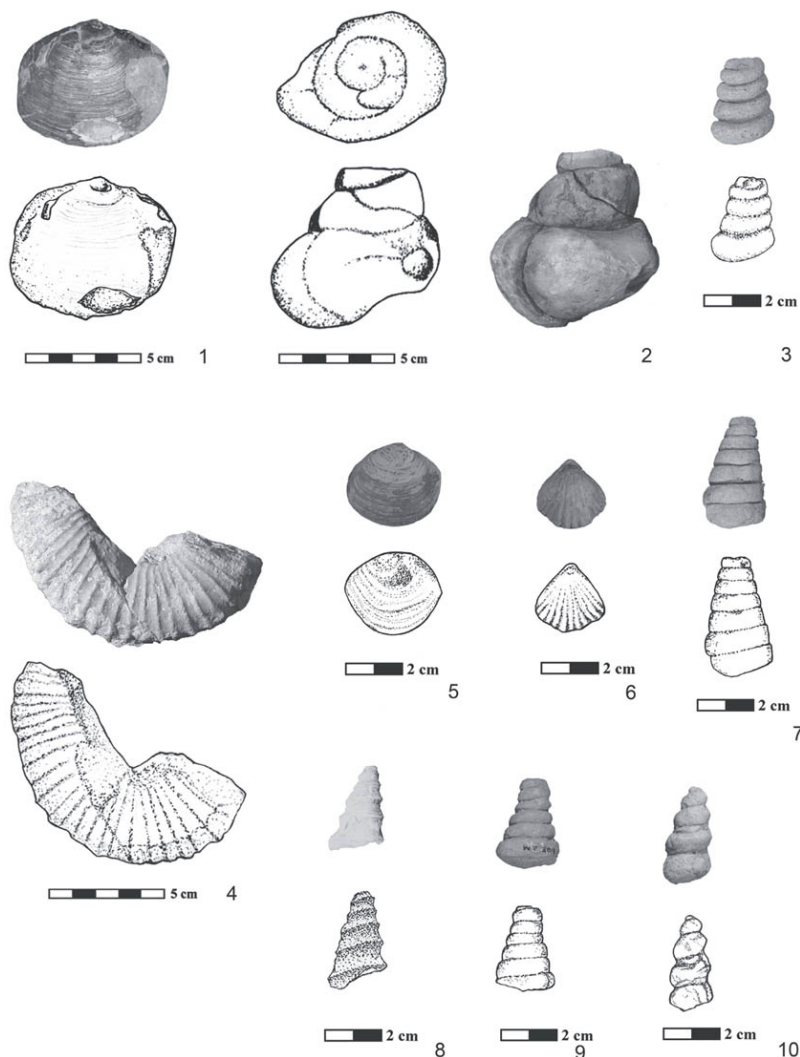


Figure 10.3. Fossil invertebrates: 1) bivalve, WT 293; 2) gastropod, WT 279; 3) trochiform gastropod internal mould, WT 486; 4) ammonite fragment, WT 51+251; 5) bivalve, WT 54; 6) brachiopod, WT 212; 7) trochiform

gastropod internal mould, WT 222; 8) trochiform gastropod, WT 50; 9) trochiform gastropod internal mould, WT 309; 10) trochiform gastropod internal mould, WT 368

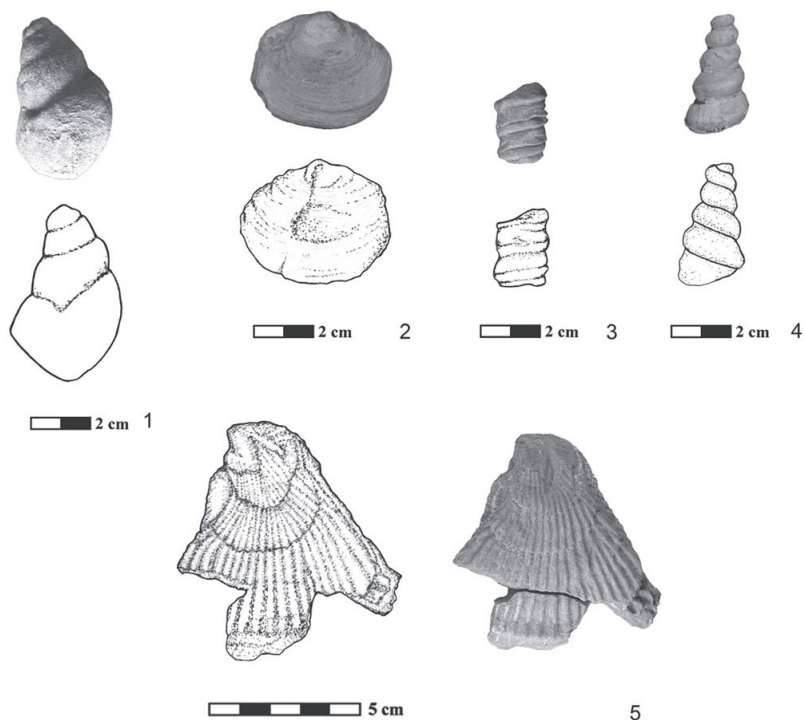


Figure 10.4. Fossil invertebrates: 1) fusiform gastropod internal mould, WT 49; 2) bivalve, WT 285; 3) gastropod internal mould (Nerinea/Nerinella), WT 364; 4) trochiform gastropod internal mould, WT 344; 5) oyster, WT 490 + 539

Square A5

A7:5 (Bedrock)

trochiform gastropod internal mould – (WT 344; Fig. 10.4:4); slightly broken apex and distal, silicified, L 39.5, W 20.0.

Square A7

A7:5 (Ashy soil and pebble/small cobble layer)

gastropod internal mould – (WT 540); distal fragment, silicified, shiny, L 16, W 27.25.

Squares A8 + A6

A8:3 (Soil layer) + A6:24 (Rockfall)

oyster – (WT 490 + 539; Fig. 10.4:5); broken, 2 joining pieces, large, H 76 +, W 70 +.

Notes

1 Field+Square:locus is the format used to indicate loci in what follows.

2 All measurements are in millimeters. H | height; D | diameter; L | length; T | thickness; W | width.

Fossil sea urchins from WT-13

Kenneth J. McNamara

Introduction

Along with shells and exotic geological samples, a small number of fossils were recovered during excavation at WT-13. In the brief discussion that follows, four fossils are identified and their occurrence in Jordan and sites in the Levant is investigated.

The Corpus

CATALOGUE

WT 59 (Fig. 11.1:1; A2:6/10). Length incomplete, 35.0 mm.

Mecaster sp.

Description: This broken specimen of a heart urchin represents about one third of the entire specimen and shows the development of the prominent five-rayed star pattern on both upper and lower surfaces. On the upper, domed surface this pattern consists of five sunken, radiating grooves. On the flatter lower surface, the five rays radiate from a crescentic depression, the peristome, which in life was the urchin's mouth. Breakage of the specimen would have occurred before it was originally collected. In places the surface of the fossil has patches of red coloration. This is not present on the

broken surfaces. It is possible, though not certain, that this could have been artificially applied. Such application of a red pigmentation has previously been noted on urchins collected from Iron Age sites in Jordan (McNamara 2004).

WT 120 (Fig. 11.1:2; A2:7/24). D 35.50 mm, H 17.25 mm

Heterodiadema lybica (Agassiz and Desor 1846)

Description: This rather worn specimen shows signs of artificial alteration. In the centre of the slightly flatter ventral surface of the urchin there is a pentagonal opening that represents where the mouth (peristome) of the urchin was situated in life. Here, the enclosing marly matrix is exposed and within it there is evidence of a preliminary attempt to drill a hole, 3.8 mm wide. The dorsal surface also has a wide pentagonal opening, with an extension on one of the five sides, giving it the appearance of a keyhole. There was also an attempt to drill in this area and it was as limited as on the ventral surface. The indentation is similar in width to that in the ventral surface, being 3.4 mm wide. No other evidence of artificial tampering of the urchin is evident.

WT 129 (Fig. 11.1:3; A2:22/33). D 29.0 mm, H 12.5 mm.

Phymosoma maresi (Cotteau 1864)

Description: The urchin shows clear evidence of artificial alteration; attempts having been made to drill a hole from both sides. The indentations are 6.0–7.0 mm wide and 4.0–4.5 mm deep. Despite the fact that the indentations almost meet, the hole was not completed. One possible reason for this could be because the two initial incisions were both slightly off-centre, but one appreciably more so than the other. Whereas one indentation appears to have been made by a single instrument, the other was made using two, of different sizes. Here the outer part of the indentation has a shallower angle than the deeper part, with a distinct break in slope between the two. This indicates a change from the use of a relatively wide angled point, to a narrower angled point. This produces a steeper angled slope.¹ There are no other indications of

artificial tampering with the urchin.

WT 458 (Fig.11.1:4; A1:33/53). D 18.50 mm, H. 9.25 mm.

Coenholectypus larteti (Cotteau 1869)

Description: This small urchin is very abraded on both the flat, ventral and gently convex dorsal surfaces. This abrasion has ripped the surface calcite from the surface. The abrasion appears to have been produced by a sharp instrument, indicating that it may be artificial.

Discussion

Fossil sea urchins occur commonly in many parts of Jordan, deriving from the late Cretaceous limestones of the Ajlun Formation that covers about two-thirds of Jordan (Neumann 1999). There is evidence from a number of archaeological sites that these fossils have been collected by the early inhabitants of this region for many thousands of years. Although four fossil urchins, all artificially holed, have been found in the early Neolithic deposits at Ain Ghazal (McNamara 2004; Reese 2002), these fossils occur far more commonly in Iron Age sites. Prior to this study, fossil urchins had been recovered from nine Iron Age sites in Jordan, but only three of these yielded more than one fossil (McNamara 2004). At Tall Safut two specimens of the heart urchin *Mecaster* were recovered (Reese *et al.* 2002). Five urchins were found at Tall Jawa, these being specimens of *Mecaster* and *Coenholectypus* (Reese 2002:281–282), both of these types being represented in the finds from the ritual site of WT-13. Two of the Tall Jawa urchins show evidence of artificial alteration, having been perforated, the hole extending right through the fossil.

The most richly fossiliferous Iron Age site in Jordan that has yielded fossil urchins is Busayra, from where 71 urchins have been collected (Reese *et al.* 2002:442). Numerically, the most common urchins from this site are *Coenholectypus* and *Mecaster*. Single specimens of each of these types occur at WT-13. Only two

specimens of *Coenholectypus* from Busayra are artificially perforated. Interestingly, although none of the urchins from WT-13 were perforated, two out of the four specimens were incompletely perforated. No such examples have been found at any of the other Iron Age sites in Jordan that have yielded fossil urchins. Attempted perforations on urchins from WT-13 were carried out on two different types of urchin. One of these, *Heterodiadema lybica*, has also been found at Busayra, although there is no evidence of artificial alteration on specimens from that site. The other urchin from WT-13 that shows attempted perforation is a specimen of *Phymosoma maresi*. This represents not only the first record of this species from an archaeological site in Jordan, but also the first record for the genus.

It has been suggested that the small perforated examples of *Coenholectypus* from both Neolithic and Iron Age sites in Jordan, may have been used as spindle whorls (Reese *et al.* 2002). It is interesting to note that the two failed perforated specimens from WT-13 are much larger than the perforated *Coenholectypus* specimens seen elsewhere (more than twice as large). In a study of whorls and weights found at Busayra that were thought to have been used in spinning yarn for the manufacture of textiles, Sedman (2002) found a wide range of sizes, from 19 mm to nearly 70 mm in diameter. The small ones, Sedman argued, were used as spindle whorls, whereas the larger ones, more than 35 mm in diameter, were used as loom weights. Even the smallest diameter perforated whorls were unlikely, according to Barber (1991), to have been used as beads. The two partially perforated urchins found at WT-13 lie close to the upper range of spindle whorl sizes (diameters of 29.0 mm and 35.5 mm). If they had been destined for use as spindle whorls, the incomplete alteration raises a number of the questions. Firstly, why do both appear to have stopped being perforated at about the same stage; and secondly, why were they retained, apparently for use as votive objects? Given the absence of fully perforated urchins at this site there is a

possibility that the extent of alteration may have been deliberate and that they were never intended for use as spindle whorls in the first place. However, what the purpose would have been is unknown.

A third urchin from WT-13, the small *Coenholectypus* specimen, may also have been altered, but in a different manner. The surface of this type of urchin, when perfectly preserved, was finely tuberculated, but in the WT-13 specimen it has been completely abraded. While such abrasion can occur naturally, this is likely to produce a smooth, worn fossil. The finely jagged nature of the surface of this specimen indicates that it has been deliberately picked with a sharp implement. Such alteration of fossil urchins has been previously described from the Neolithic site at Ain Ghazal and from the Iron Age excavations at Busayra (McNamara 2002; 2004). In these cases it has been suggested that the purpose of the removal of the surface of the fossil urchin was to enhance the appearance of the five-rayed pattern, characteristic of fossil urchins. The five-pointed star motif, which is also very prominently displayed by the specimen of *Mecaster*, carried strong symbolic meaning during these times in this part of the world (McNamara 2004). However, while the two previously described examples of artificially scraped urchins enhanced the five-pointed star pattern, in the WT-13 specimen this does not appear to have been the case.

Conclusion

Fossil sea urchins have been found at many archaeological sites in the eastern and central parts of the Mediterranean region. It has been suggested that these distinctive fossils, emblazoned with the five-pointed star motif, were of widespread votive significance in the region (McNamara 2004; 2010; Reese *et al.* 2002). Despite the relatively frequent occurrence of fossil urchins in archaeological sites in Jordan, especially those from the Iron Age, the presence of fossil urchins at WT-13 is the first direct indication of their

occurrence in a votive context in Jordan. Two of the species of fossil urchins unearthed at WT-13 (*Heterodiadema lybica* and *Coenholectypus larteti*) have also been found in a Late Bronze Age temple at Timna in southern Israel (Price 1988; Reese 1988a). In a Tarxien temple on Malta, also of the Late Bronze Age, fossil urchins were similarly found in a votive context, having been placed in a shallow recess that had been carved into one of the pillars of the temple (Zammit 1930). At Kommos in southern Crete in a Late Minoan II deposit, fossil sea urchins, along with fossil bivalves, were found in a sanctuary, having been placed there, it has been suggested, as votive offerings (Reese 1995c).

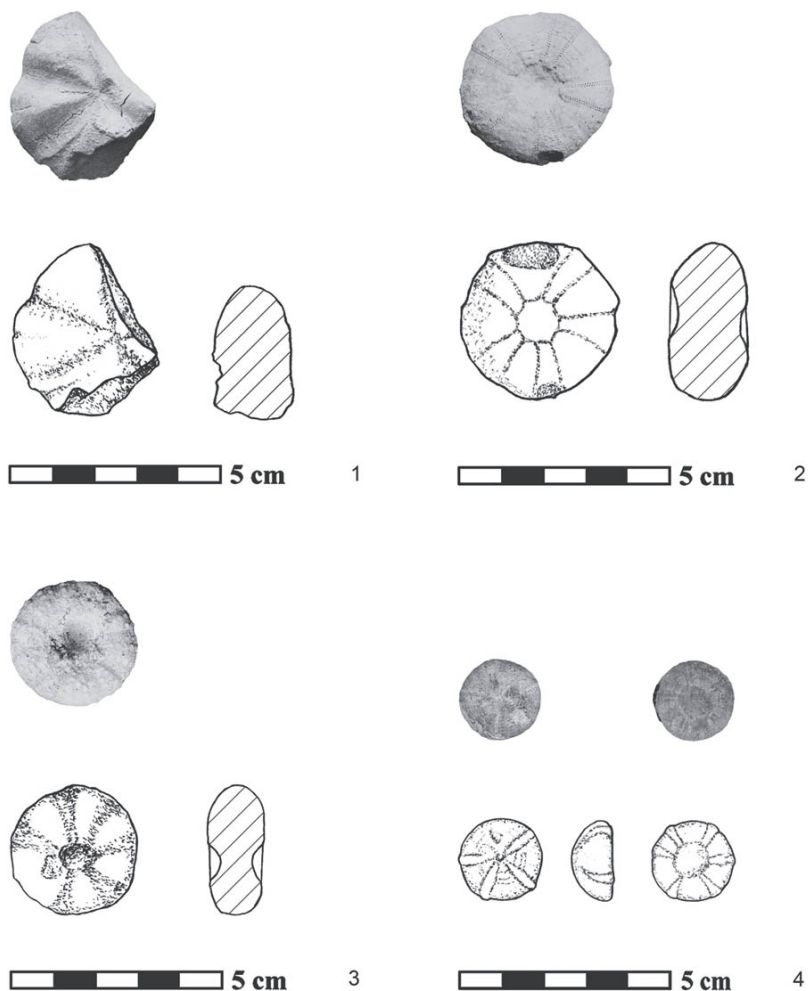


Figure 11.1. Urchin fossils: 1) WT 59; 2) WT 120; 3) WT 129; 4) WT 458

A fossil urchin found at the site of Heliopolis in Egypt, and dated to the Middle Kingdom (about 1855–1800 BC), would also appear to have been of appreciable spiritual significance, not only because of its context in a site that was the religious centre of Egypt for millennia, but because of the hieroglyphs it bears on its lower surface. These indicate the name of the priest who found it, along with the name of a quarry near where the fossil was found. This quarry bears the name of Sopdu, the god equated with Horus

and at times known as the “morning star”. The five-rayed star pattern which the urchin carries was extensively used in early Egyptian tombs, where it depicted the night sky into which the soul of the deceased pharaoh passed (Reese *et al.* 2002; see also, McNamara 2010). It is interesting, therefore, that one of the many objects found at WT-13 was a blue faience amulet of Horus as a child (Fig. 5.1:2).

The presence of the four fossil urchins in the shrine at WT-13, three of them showing apparent evidence of having been artificially altered, provides not only the first direct evidence of their use as votive objects in Jordan, but also evidence that these fossils retained their spiritual significance into the Iron Age in this region. Although fossil sea urchins have not yet been recovered from Bronze Age sites in Jordan, their occurrence in both Neolithic and Iron Age deposits in the area suggests that they were regarded as objects of spiritual significance throughout this long period.

Note

- 1 For a discussion of techniques for producing such incisions, see McNamara (2004).

The beads

P. M. Michèle Daviau and Gabrielle Cole

Introduction

The most comprehensive formal typology created to classify beads is that of Horace C. Beck, originally published in 1928. This system divides beads into two sub-categories consisting of circular or faceted (straight-edged) beads and then further sub-divides them by length (disc, short, standard and long)¹ as well as by their overall shape (disc, barrel, conical, cylindrical, etc.). Beck also created groupings for beads that do not fall into these categories, beads that are in the shape of divine symbols, animals or fruit. The system is quite complex and it has been suggested by Gloria Dale that any beads classified using Beck's codes should be accompanied by his plates (Dale 1981:3). For a small corpus with only a limited number of types, such as the assemblage from WT-13, Beck's typology remains the most useful system even without a reproduction of his complete typology. Beck's categories, with the addition of beads of unusual form or size, were very successfully applied to the much larger corpus of 409 beads from the Baqāh Valley excavations (McGovern 1986:202; table 29).

The following is a classification of the formed beads found at

Shrine Site WT-13, not including scarabs, amulets and other perforated objects which may have been used as beads or pendants.² Only a brief mention of shells is included here (see also [Chapters 5 and 10](#)). The codes used in the following typology continue the sequence for adornment artefacts begun in [Chapter 5](#), beginning here with Class 1-A/2. *Beads*, while subtypes are arranged according to Beck's typology; for example, a circular bead will appear in the catalogue with the code, "I.C.1.a, Circular". Parallels for the beads found at WT-13 are only cited for those sites where sufficient illustration or documentation is provided. Every attempt is made to compare both size and form of potential parallels.

The nature of the site indicates that the beads may have served various purposes other than adornment reflecting social status, since the colours of the beads may have been symbolic. Thus the ornaments may have been worn by devotees, by religious personnel attending to the deity or by an image of the deity itself. Their recovery as individual items (none were found strung together in a complete necklace) suggests that some may even have been individual votive offerings.

The WT-13 assemblage consists of 63 well-preserved beads, two holed scarabs, and two badly broken beads, not including amulets. A variety of materials are represented in the collection including shell, bone, faience, glass and different types of stones ([Chart 12.1](#)). There are 39 shell objects including 21 holed shells that may have been used as beads or pendants.³ Most numerous are the cowrie shells (*Cypraea annulus* and *C. turdus*), constituting 28% of the holed shells ([Chart 12.3](#); for details, [Chapter 10](#)).

Apart from these shells, carnelian beads are the most frequently occurring, consisting of 22 out of 46 beads or 47.8% of the corpus (not including natural shells); there are also eight unidentified stone beads, two of shell, one of bone and another of bone/ivory, one silver bead/cap, four glass (one with gold foil), three faience beads and a gold and paste tubular bead. The

majority of beads, including the holed shells (33/67 = 49.2%), were concentrated in Square A2 with Square A4 on the west containing the second largest cluster (14/67 = 20.9%).

Among the geometrically-shaped beads, the most common form was the truncated bicone of varying lengths (18/46 = 39.1%).⁴ Cylindrical, circular and barrel-shaped beads were all present in smaller numbers. In Beck's typology, circular, barrel and pear-shaped forms precede conical, biconical and cylindrical shapes. In the WT-13 assemblage, the dominant type is biconical, although a few of the carnelian barrel and pear-shaped beads may have been considered interchangeable given their small size. To facilitate comparison with the published bead corpus from Tall Jawa, which was organized according to material and then shape (Daviau 2002), the presentation of the beads from WT-13 begins with stone beads. It then follows Beck's sequence where possible, with new forms added as needed.⁵

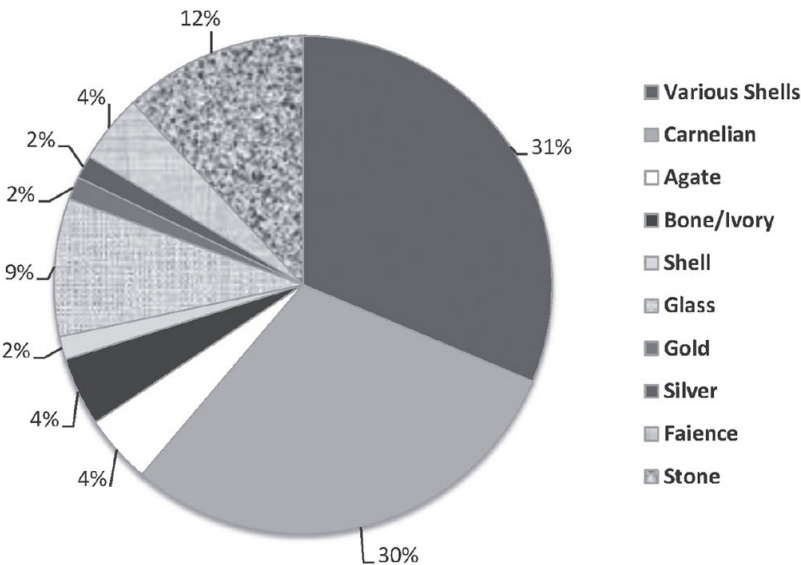


Chart 12.1. Beads according to material

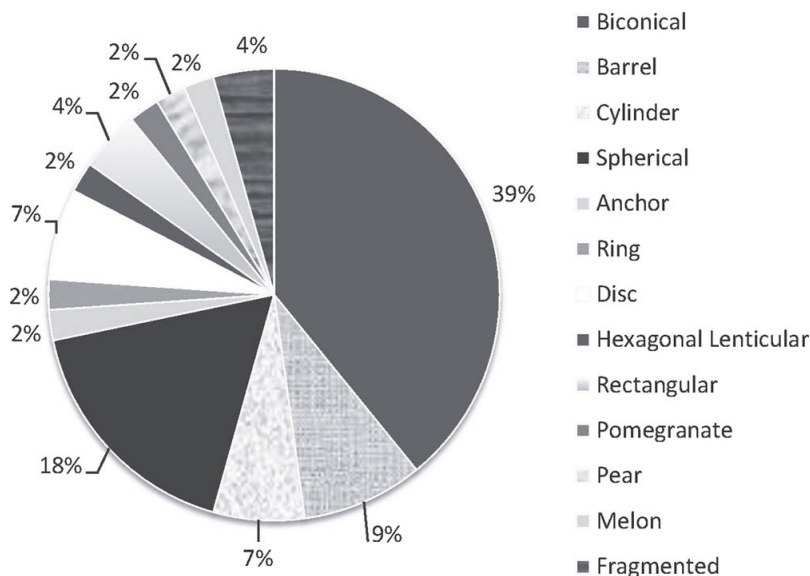


Chart 12.2. Percentage of Beads assigned to a specific shape

THE CORPUS

I-A/2. Beads

1-A/2a. Stone beads

Not counting shell ornaments, stone beads compose half of the collection. This section describes carnelian and stone beads of various materials. The stone beads can be grouped by size; small (8.0×8.0 mm or less), medium (9.0×12.0 mm or less) and large (9.0×12.0 mm or more). Within each group, Beck's divisions of disc, short, standard or long are indicated by using his codes in the designation of each bead in the catalogue.

Agate beads

Four beads from WT-13 were initially identified as agate (WT 10, 62, 63, 442), although their material was not confirmed. These are all crude in construction with asymmetrical features and rough, irregular edges. These beads are now included in the group of unidentified stone beads (below).

Carnelian

The 22 carnelian beads fall into six different formal types, including 11 beads that are biconical in shape (see below). Two carnelian beads are particularly notable – a ‘spacer’ bead with two parallel perforations (Fig. 12.3:7) and an anchor-shaped bead or pendant (Fig. 5.1:1).

Undetermined stone beads

Nine stone beads vary in colour from dark red to white along with yellow beads of mottled hue.

1-A/2a-1. Pear-shaped beads⁶

Among the small carnelian beads, certain ones are not truly biconical in shape. These beads, slightly wider near one end, are categorized as pear-shaped or piriform to distinguish them from straight-sided conical/biconical beads.

CATALOGUE

WT 290-4/521 (Fig. 12.1:1; A1:5/31).⁷ I.C.1.g, Standard Pear Shape; Carnelian; L 5.5, Ext D 6.0, Int D 1.5 mm; Dark Red (2.5YR 3/6); Complete.

Unless shown from more than one perspective, it is difficult to identify parallels with accuracy. As a result, parallel citations are for examples of beads where the shape and material are obvious. This tiny bead form (WT 290) was probably in use with bicone beads of the same size.

1-A/2a-2. Spherical stone beads

The large beads classed as spherical are not perfectly round but they are nearly circular in shape on all sides. Bead WT 62-2/562 was tentatively identified as amber, but the material has not been confirmed scientifically.

CATALOGUE

WT 499-6/509 (Fig. 12.1:2; A4:4/30). I.C.1.a, Circular; Carnelian; L 8.3, Ext D 9.0, Int D 1.9 mm; Reddish Yellow (5YR 7/6); chipped Madaba Museum.

WT 62-2/562 (A2:11/15). I.C.1.a, Circular; Stone; L 13.2, Ext D 15.5, Int D 2.3 mm; Strong Brown (7.5YR 4/6); String in hole; Complete.

WT 481-6/507 (Fig. 12.1:3; A4:4/25). I.B.1.b, Spherical; Stone; L 8.1, Ext D 10.0, Int D 2.2 mm; Dusky Red (10R 3/2); Complete; Madaba Museum.

Parallels

Megiddo: A large circular opal bead (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 90:53) is close in size to WT 499. Other circular beads show the same slight irregularity in shape (Loud 1948: pl. 209:24).

Tell el-Farḥah (N): The closest parallel to WT 62 is a spherical bead with a diameter of 12.0 mm (F.2961; Chambon 1984: pl. 74:19).

Tall as-Saḥidiyya: Nineteen circular beads from the Late Bronze Age cemetery are similar in shape (Pritchard 1980: fig. 19:5).

Baqḥah Valley: One large brown stone bead, a white mottled bead and a black stone bead are identified as “circular circular” in the Late Bronze I and II series (McGovern 1986: fig. 61:19, 20).

1-A/2a-3/a. Small barrel beads

The smallest stone beads are barrel bead WT 84 and bead WT 510, a tiny bicone. The remaining barrel beads are grouped as medium and large in overall size.

CATALOGUE

WT 84-2/584 (Fig. 12.1:4; A2:2/4). I.B.1.b, Short Barrel, nearly pear-shaped on one side; Carnelian; L 3.8 Ext D 5.3, Int D 2.0;

Red (2.5YR 4/8); Complete.

WT 328 (Fig. 12.1:5; A2:49/94). I.B.1.f, Short Barrel; Carnelian; L 5.0, Ext D 6.0, Int D 1.8 mm; Red (10R 4/8); Complete.

WT 508-6/512 (Fig. 12.1:6; A6:9/41). I.C.1.b, Short Barrel; Stone; L 5.2, Ext D 6.4, Int D 2.0 mm; Black (N 2.5/); Complete; Madaba Museum.

WT 500-6/510 (Fig. 12.1:7; A4:4/30). I.C.1.b, Standard Barrel; Carnelian; L 7.7, Ext D 7.8, Int D 2.1 mm; Red (10R 4/6); Complete; Madaba Museum.

Parallels

Tell el-Farḥah (N): Among the tiny barrel beads from the Stratum VII Iron Age pillared houses is one bead (F.2906) with the same diameter as WT 84 (Chambon 1984: pl.74:20).

Tall Jawa: A carnelian barrel bead with an interior perforation drilled from both ends shows clearly the technique used to perforate this tiny bead (Daviau 2002: fig. 2.11:1).

1-A/2a-3/b. Medium barrel beads

CATALOGUE

WT 146-2/646 (Fig. 12.1:8; A2:5/42). I.C.2.b.f, Short Barrel; Carnelian; L 6.5 Ext D 9.1, Int D 2.3; Red (10R 4/8); Complete.

1-A/2a-3/c. Large barrel beads

CATALOGUE

WT 283-4/515 (Fig. 12.1:9; A2:41/72). I.C.1.a, Short Barrel; Stone; L 9.0–11.0, Ext D 14.0, Int D 3.0. Pale Yellow (2.5Y 8/2). Complete.

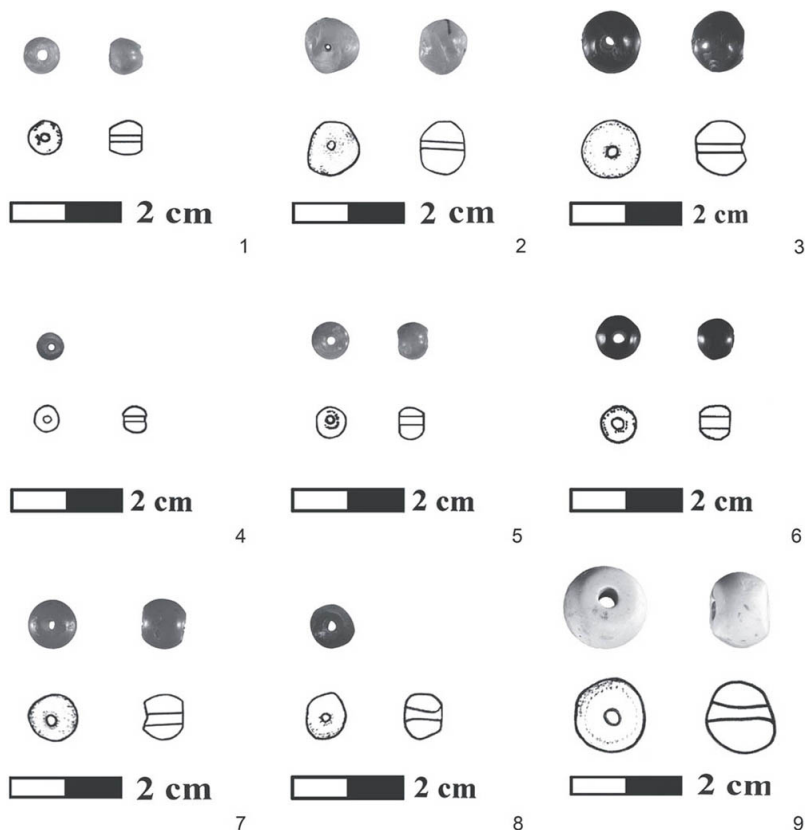


Figure 12.1. Stone beads: 1) standard pear shape, carnelian, WT 290-4/52; 2) circular, carnelian, WT 499-6/509; 3) spherical, stone, WT 481-6/507; 4) short barrel, carnelian, WT 84-2/584; 5) WT 328; 6) short barrel, stone, WT 508-6/512; 7) standard barrel, carnelian, WT 500-6/510; 8) short barrel, carnelian, WT 146-2/646; 9) short barrel, stone, WT 283-4/515

Parallels

Megiddo: A number of large, short barrel stone beads represent this type (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 90:21, 56).

1-A/2a-4. Biconical beads

1-A/2a-4/a. Small biconical beads

A total of 11 biconical carnelian beads, nearly all in the small size

range, are the single largest group in the collection. These are accompanied by a handful of barrel or pear shaped carnelian beads of the same tiny size.

CATALOGUE

- WT 12-1/512* (A10:5/16). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 5.4, Ext D 7.5, Int D 1.7 mm; Red (10R 4/8); Complete.
- WT 75-2/575* (Fig. 12.2:1; A2:2/4). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 5.1 Ext D 6.4, Int D 1.4 mm. Red (2.5YR 4/8). Complete.
- WT 109-2/609* (Fig. 12.2:2; A2:7/21). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 5.1, Ext D 6.4, Int D 2.1 mm; Red (2.5YR 5/6); Complete.
- WT 138-2/638* (A2:7/31). I.B.2.f/I.B.2.e, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided/Short Bicone (slight difference at drill hole); Carnelian; L 4.9, Ext D 7.4, Int D 2.7 mm; Red (2.5YR 4/8); Complete.
- WT 287-4/519* (Fig. 12.2:3; A2:43/61). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided (nearly hexagonal); Carnelian; L 4.0, W 6.5, Int D 1.5 mm; Red (2.5YR 4/8); Complete.
- WT 444-6/502* (Fig. 12.2:4; A2:56/97)). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 5.5, Ext D 8.6, Int D 1.4 mm; Red (10R 4/8); Complete; Thread in hole; Madaba Museum.
- WT 457-6/504* (Fig. 12.2:5; A2:59/99). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 4.5, Ext D 8.7, Int D 2.0 mm; Red (10R 4/6); Complete; Madaba Museum.
- WT 510-6/514* (Fig. 12.2:6; A4:5/35). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 3.3, Ext D 4.2, Int D 1.9 mm; Dark Red (2.5YR 3/6); Complete; Madaba Museum.
- WT 511-6/515* (Fig. 12.2:7; A4:5/35). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone; Carnelian; L 2.7 Ext D 5.0, Int D 1.6; Red (2.5YR 5/8); Complete; Madaba Museum.

WT 516-6/517 (Fig. 12.2:8; A4:5/35). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone; Carnelian; L 4.8 Ext D 6.8, Int D 2.2; Red (2.5YR 4/8); Complete; Madaba Museum.

WT 289-4/520 (Fig. 12.2:9; A2:41/72). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Bicone; Stone; L 6.0, Ext D 7.7, Int D 2.0 mm; Dusty Red (2.5YR 3/2); Complete.

Parallels

Megiddo: Recovered in cultic corner 2081 is a necklace consisting of tiny biconical carnelian beads strung with long large biconical and barrel-shaped beads. Beads of other materials are also shown as part of the same necklace including spherical stone beads and cowrie shells (Loud 1948: pl. 217:129).

Tell el-Far'ah (N): Two small biconical carnelian beads with diameters in the range of 6.0–8.0 mm (F.3154, F.2414) serve as close parallels (Chambon 1984: pl. 74:17).

Gezer: A small biconical carnelian bead (Obj. 402) that dates to the Late Bronze Age (Spaer: 2014:220; pl. 3:9) is in the same size range as WT 287. Spaer (2014:212) is of the opinion that biconical beads dating to the Iron Age were larger than Late Bronze beads of the same shape.

Lachish: Two groups of beads strung as necklaces are among the best parallels for the bead shapes found at WT-13. In one necklace, carnelian and quartz beads in the shape of barrels and bicones are grouped together and in the second, small beads similar in shape were of “paste” or faience (Tufnell 1953: pl. 38:1, 2).

Beth Shemesh: A necklace consisting predominantly of carnelian biconical beads (Grant 1929:79) was recovered from the repository of Tomb 2, where the ceramic material was identified as Iron Age IIB (Grant and Wright 1939:7).

Tall as-Sa'idiyya: Small carnelian biconical beads (Pritchard

1980:3, 4) were part of the 21 beads from Tomb 100.

Tall al-Umayri: One carnelian bead from the Early Bronze Age settlement (U 654) has dimensions close to those of WT 289 (Platt 1991: fig. 10.82–83).

Tall Jawa: Two biconical beads (TJ 1756, TJ 1628) are slightly larger than the Tall al-Umayri bead but are comparable to WT 457 and WT 510 in shape (Daviau 2002: fig. 2.12.1, 2).

Tawilan: Among the carnelian beads are several barrel shapes and a small carnelian biconical bead (Bienkowski 1995: fig. 9.31:3).

1-A/2a-4/b-1. Medium, short biconical beads

CATALOGUE

WT 281 (Fig. 12.3:1; A4:8/13). I.B.1.f, Short Truncated Convex Bicone; Carnelian; L 6.0, Ext D 11.0, Int D 2.0 mm; Red (10R 4/8); Complete.

WT 10-1/510 (Fig. 12.3:2; A10:5/16). I.B.2.f, Short Truncated Convex Bicone; Stone; L. 9.1, Ext Dia. 11.3, Int D 2.4 mm; Dark Reddish Brown (5YR 3/3); Chipped.

WT 270-4/512 (Fig. 12.3:3; A2:41/7). I.B.1.e, Short Truncated Bicone, one side more convex; Material unknown; L 7.0, Ext D 9.0, Int D 2.0 mm; Gray (N 5/–N 6/). Complete.

The most unusual bead in this sub-type is WT 270-4/512. One half is covered with white paste(?) while the other side is varying shades of gray.

Parallels

Tall as-Sa'idiyya: Two very short, medium size carnelian bicone beads appear slightly less truncated than WT 281, but are very close in size (Pritchard 1980: figs. 19:1; 37:19).

1-A/2a-4/b-2. Medium, long biconical beads

CATALOGUE

WT 225-4/517 (Fig. 12.3:4; A2:39/55). I.D.2.f, Long Truncated Bicone, straight sided; Carnelian; L 14.0, Ext D 6.6, Int D 2.0 mm; Red (2.5YR 4/8); Complete.

Parallels

Hazor: An opal bead from Area G Stratum VI (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. CCL:24) has the same biconical shape as WT 225.

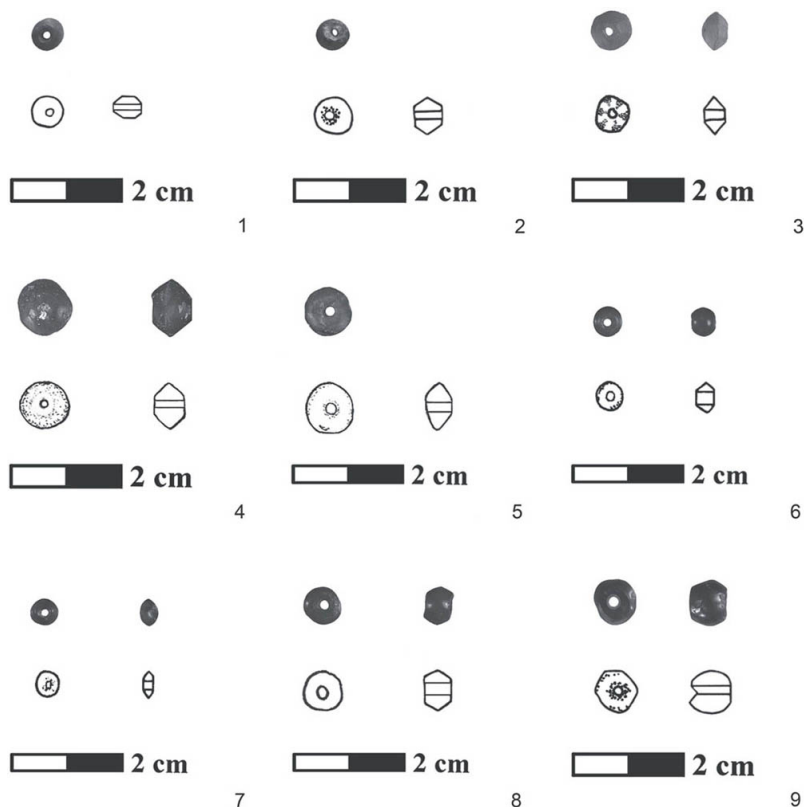


Figure 12.2. Stone beads: 1) short truncated bicone, carnelian, WT 75-2/575; 2) WT 109-2/609; 3) WT 287-4/519; 4) WT 444-6/502; 5) WT 457-6/504; 6) WT 510-6/514; 7) WT 511-6/515; 8) WT 516-6/517; 9) short truncated bicone, stone, WT 289-4/520

Akhziv (ez-Zib): Although slightly convex, a biconical bead in the

same size range as WT 225 is a close parallel (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 3.8:3).

Megiddo: Among the biconical beads, two long straight-sided beads (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 90:46, 47), one somewhat larger than WT 225, are good parallels to this type.

Tell el-Farḥah (N): One long biconical bead (F.2352) is only 1.0 mm longer than bead WT 225, while a second bead of similar shape (F.3153; Chambon 1984: pl. 74:15) is closer in length to the long bicone bead, WT 210.

Deir el-Balah: A bead identified only as semi-precious stone was used as a spacer with biconical and gadrooned beads and palmette pendants in a necklace (Dothan 1979: figs. 179, 188).

Lachish: Several long biconical beads are part of a necklace from Tomb 218 (Tufnell 1953: pl. 38:1).

1-A/2a-4c. Large, long biconical beads

CATALOGUE

WT 210-4/515 (Fig. 12.3:5; A4:1/4). I.D.2.e, Long Truncated Bicone, convex sided; Carnelian; L 22.0, W 10.0, Int D 2.5 mm; Red (2.5YR 5/8); Complete.

Parallels

Megiddo: One long chalcedony bead and a smoky quartz bicone bead with a gentle change of direction come from Strata III and IV respectively (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 90:57, 65).

Gibeon: One example of a long biconical bead was part of a necklace from Tomb 10B (Pritchard 1963: fig. 73:3).

1-A/2a-5. Cylindrical stone beads

Only one very large stone bead falls into the category of

cylindrical beads. It is similar in shape to a cylinder seal but is unworked. The stone is variegated in colour, pink and creamy white.

CATALOGUE

WT 40-2/540 (Fig. 12.3:6; A2:2/7). I.D.4.f.b, Long Cylinder, flat ends; Stone; L 40.1, Ext D 17.4, Int D 5.2 mm; hole off-centre; Very Pale Brown (10YR 8/3), Light Reddish Brown (2.5YR 6/3); Complete.

Parallels

Gibeon: While there is only a single occurrence in a necklace from Late Bronze Age Tomb 22, long cylindrical beads strung lengthwise repeat along the length of a necklace from tomb 10B (Pritchard 1963: fig. 73:3).

1-A/2a-6. Elliptical stone beads

A single, elegant bead (WT-46) falls into this category. This bead is rectangular on the side and oval or elliptical on the end. There is a slight indentation on both long sides similar to certain beads from Tall as-Sa'idiyya. The two small parallel perforations (multi-tubular) appear to contain remnants of the string.

CATALOGUE

WT 46-2/526 (Fig. 12.3:7; A2:2/5) XVII.A.3.b.1, Elliptical Spacer Bead with twin perforations; Carnelian; L 18.0, W 12.8, T 6.1, Int D 2.0, Int D 2.4 mm; Dark Red (2.5YR 3/6); Complete; WLU.

Parallels

Ugarit: A Late Bronze Age double tubular bead is a close approximation to the WT-13 bead, although it was made of moulded frit (Caubet 1987:337, item 9).

Tall as-Sa'idiyya: Two of the four elliptical bead shapes with double perforations are similar in proportion to WT 46. The five rounded elliptical beads were assigned by Pritchard to Beck's type II.C.2.b (1980: fig. 19:12, 17) and the five tubular beads to type A.2.A.

1-A/2a-7. Lenticular hexagonal beads

Only one bead fits into this category, hexagonal from the front and back and lentoid from the side. This tiny bead is finely made with sharp straight edges and a very small (1.0 mm) string hole drilled through the length of the bead.

CATALOGUE

WT 194-3/504 (Fig. 12.3:8; A10:0.5). IV.C.2, Standard Lenticular Bicone; Carnelian; L 4.8, W 4.7, T 3.0, Int D 1.0 mm; Yellowish Red–Red (5YR 5/8–2.5YR 4/8); Complete.

1-A/2a-8. Triangular beads

CATALOGUE

WT 63-2/563 (Fig. 12.3:9; A2:6/13) VIII.C.2.b, Long Truncated Triangular; Stone; L 16.6, W 13.0, Th 9.5, Int D 3.0 mm; Dusky Red (10R 3/4), mottled; Complete.

1-A/2b. Glass beads

Glass beads are represented by disc, biconical and barrel-shaped beads. Four fragments, one clearly belonging to a bead, are too damaged to receive an actual classification; these are grouped as WT 249 and WT 365, Light Blue Green (5BG 6/6; see online database).

1-A/2b-1. Barrel Disc Beads

A barrel disc bead has two parallel flat ends and a flat exterior

edge, whereas an oblate disc would be rounded on the edge. Bead WT 61 has flat sides and appears slightly hexagonal in shape.

CATALOGUE

WT 61-2/561 (Fig. 12.4:1; A2:6/13). I.A.1.b, Barrel Disc, Blue glass with patina and gold foil; L 3.1, Ext D 14.8, Int D 4.3 cm; Moderate Blue Green (5BG 4/6); Complete.

Parallels

Tell Abu Hawam: Beads of various shapes and sizes were dated to Late Bronze Age levels. Two groups of faience disc beads (Hamilton 1935:61–62, pl. XXIV:392b, XXV:395d) are close parallels in shape to glass bead WT 61.

A-1/2-2. Ring Beads

1-A/2b-2/a. Ring beads with large perforation

While short barrel disc beads have straight sides and a small perforation, Beck (1981:19) identifies ring-shaped beads with a large perforation as “annular” beads and explains that they are a special form of oblate (round sided) disc beads. In the case of WT 517, the side is biconical rather than round.

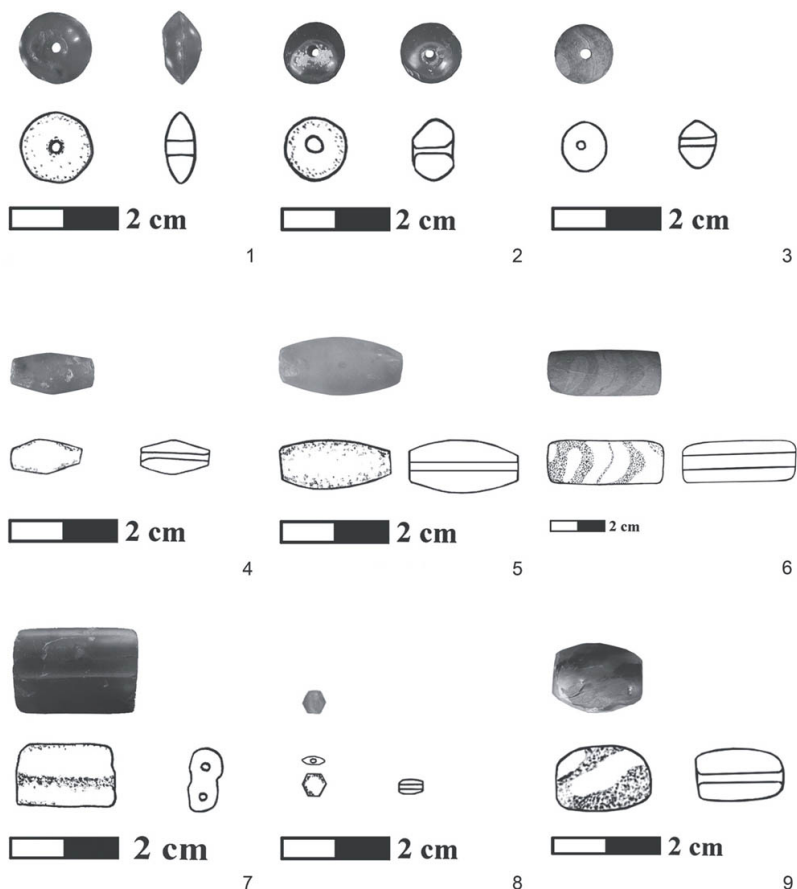


Figure 12.3. Stone beads: 1) short truncated convex bicone, carnelian, WT 281; 2) short truncated convex bicone, stone, WT 10-1/510; 3) short truncated bicone, material unknown, WT 270-4/512; 4) long truncated bicone, carnelian, WT 225-4/517; 5) WT 210-4/515; 6) long cylinder, stone, WT 40-2/540; 7) elliptical spacer with twin perforations, carnelian, WT 46-2/526; 8) standard lenticular hexagonal bicone, carnelian, WT 194-3/594; 9) long truncated triangular, stone, WT 63-2/563

CATALOGUE

WT 523-6/521 (Fig. 12.4:2; A5:17/47). XX.A.1.a Disc, Extra Large Perforation; Glass; L 2.5, Ext D 6.0, Int D 4.0 mm; Complete; Madaba Museum.

1-A/2b-a/b. Biconical ring beads

CATALOGUE

WT 517-6/518 (Fig. 12.4:3; A4:5/35). I.A.2.f, Truncated Bicone Disc, Extra Large Perforation; Glass; L 4.9, Ext D 9.9, Int D 6.3 mm; Pale Green (5G 7/2); Chipped; Madaba Museum.

1-A/2b-3. Broken glass beads

The shape of WT 85-2/585 is difficult to determine with certainty due to its broken condition. The perforation is well preserved as is the lower part of one side.

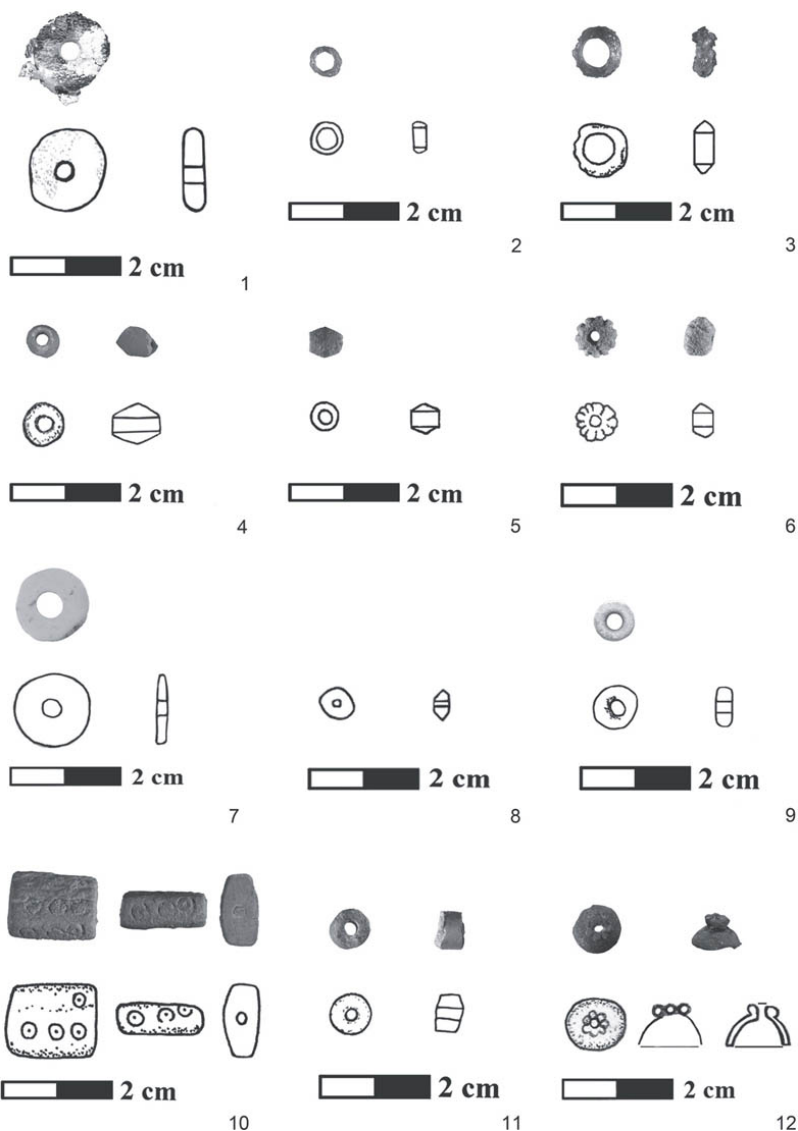


Figure 12.4. Beads of various materials: 1) barrel disc, blue glass with patina and gold foil, WT 61-2/561; 2) disc, glass, WT 523-6/521; 3) truncated bicone disc, glass, WT 517-6/518; 4) standard truncated bicone, faience, WT 446-6/503; 5) standard bicone, faience, WT 507-6/511; 6) short gadroon, faience, WT 509-6/513; 7) barrel disc, shell, WT 246-4/511; 8) biconical, WT 237-4/516; 9) cylinder disc, bone, WT 136-2/636; 10) rounded lenticular, ivory, WT 512-6/516; 11) short tube, paste with gold foil, WT 512-6/516; 12) short tube, paste with gold foil, WT 512-6/516.

228); 12) pomegranate, silver, WT 257

CATALOGUE

WT 85-2/585 (A2:6/13). Glass; Barrel(?); Preserved L 15.3, Ext D 13.1, Int D 4.6 mm; Black (N2.5/); Broken.

1-A/2c. Faience and paste beads

1-A/2c-1. Biconical faience beads

CATALOGUE

WT 446-6/503 (Fig. 12.4:4; A1/27:49). I.C.2.f, Standard Truncated Bicone, Large Perforation; Faience; L 5.9, Ext D 4.4, Int D 2.6 mm; Light Greenish Gray (10G 8/1); Chipped; Madaba Museum.

WT 507-6/511 (Fig. 12.4:5; A6:9/41). I.C.2.f, Standard Bicone, Extra Large Perforation; Faience; L 4.9, Ext D 4.6, Int D 2.4 mm; Greenish Gray (10GY 6/1); Complete; Madaba Museum.

Parallels

Tall Jawa: One of only three faience beads found at the site is biconical (Daviau 2002: fig. 2.16:3).

1-A/2c-2. Gadrooned beads

The bead in this category is not a true disc (Beck 1981: fig. 21.A.3.e), but is a short convex bead, similar to a melon-shaped bead.

CATALOGUE

WT 509-6/513 (Fig. 12.4:6; A4:5/35). XXIII.A.3.d, Short Gadrooned Bead; Faience; L 4.3, Ext D 6.0, Int D 2.4 mm; Pale Green (5G 6/2); Complete; Madaba Museum.

Parallels

Hama: Melon-shaped gadrooned beads appear in both the Iron I and Iron II structures at Hama, with parallels from Emar in the 13th century to Deve Hüyük in the Late Iron Age (Riis and Buhl 1990:214; fig. 98:790).

Sarepta: A cylindrical faience bead with a gadrooned perimeter is assigned to a secure locus in Stratum K, 15th century (Anderson 1988: pl. 31:5).

Gibeon: Gadrooned beads made of paste are found along with beads of carnelian, amethyst, alabaster and faience (Pritchard 1963: figs. 72:20; 73:3).

Beth Shemesh: Two styles of scalloped beads are present in the assemblage from various periods, one of these beads is described as a globular melon bead made of 'paste' (Grant 1932: pl. xlix:57).

Lachish: A short biconical gadrooned bead made of white faience (31347/80; D=19 mm; Sass 2004: fig. 28.19:1) is considerably larger than the example from WT-13.

Baq'ah Valley: Various gadrooned beads (Type XXII) of faience and blue frit appear in both the Late Bronze and Iron I series (McGovern 1986: figs. 63:44; 69:28).

Hisban: Fifteen faience melon beads were reported from various periods of occupation (Platt 2009:240).

1-A/2d. Shell beads

1-A/2d-1. Barrel shell beads

CATALOGUE

WT 246-4/511 (Fig. 12.4:7; A2:39/58). I.A.1.b, Barrel Disc; Shell, Large Perforation; L 1.8, Ext D 13.0, Int D 5.0 mm; Complete.

Parallels

Akhzib (ez-Zib): Although their length is not given, several beads identified as “bone” with a large perforation serve as good formal parallels to WT 246 (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 3.6:3).

Megiddo: A shell bead with a relatively large perforation (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 91:76) is similar in size to WT 246.

BaqCah Valley: A shell bead, nearly 10 mm in size, with a hole ca. 3.5 mm, falls easily into this same type (McGovern 1986: fig. 64:7).

1-A/2d-2. Biconical shell beads

Only one bead with a biconical shape is described as shell.⁸

CATALOGUE

WT 237-4/516 (Fig. 12.4:8; A2:39/55). Biconical; L 2.5, Ext D 0.6, Int D 0.2 mm; Complete.

1-A/2e. Bone beads

Beads made of bone were infrequent, only two were recovered and both are disc beads.

1-A/2e-1. Cylindrical disc bone beads

Bead WT 136 has a large perforation relative to its maximum diameter, but this does not appear to be unusual in bone beads.

CATALOGUE

WT 136-2/636 (Fig. 12.4:9; A2:23/34). I.A.2.b, Cylinder Disc; Bone; L 2.3, Ext D 7.3, Int D 3.0 mm; White (2.5Y 8/1). Comte.

Parallels

Gezer: Bone beads from a Late Bronze Age I burial are nearly twice

the size of WT 136 (Seger 1988: p; 14:10a–e).

Tall as-Sa'idiyya: Among the 646 beads from Tomb 136, 576 were small “white shell(?) and black frit” disc beads (Pritchard 1980: fig. 37:15), many in the same size range as WT 136.

Tall al-Umayri: Two disc beads, both carved out of bone, were recovered in areas with Iron Age occupation (Fields A and B). Of these, bead U9339 also has a large perforation as shown in the illustration (Platt 1991: figs. 10.41, 10.75–10.76).

1-A/2f. Ivory beads

Only one ivory bead was found during the excavations. It is similar in shape to the carnelian spacer, long and rectangular, but it has only one perforation. This bead is the only one within the catalogue that was decorated. It is covered on both sides and edges with a ring-and-dot motif which appears on gaming tables in Mesopotamia, cosmetic objects, pendants and dice from numerous sites in Palestine and Jordan, such as Tel Batash, Megiddo, Lachish, and Tall Jawa.

1-A/2f-1. Tabular Ivory Beads

CATALOGUE

WT 512-6/516 (Fig. 12.4:10; A4:5/35). XVI.C.2.b, Rounded Lenticular; Ivory; L 16.0, W 13.0, T 6.8, Int D 2.2; Complete; Madaba Museum.

Parallels

There are no exact parallels to the bead itself, however, there are numerous artefacts decorated with the same motif.

Megiddo: At Megiddo, 36 out of 40 pendants were decorated with “ring-and-dot” motif (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 97; Loud 1948: pl. 218:131–133, 135), one of which was rectangular in shape,

depicted as part of a necklace (pl. 218:35) and found close to Locus 2081, the small room filled with cultic paraphernalia.

Lachish: A number of club-shaped pendants from Iron Age tombs in Cemeteries 100 and 200 were decorated with circles and dots (Tufnell 1953. pls. 54:64, 76–78; 55:22–24, 44–46, 51; 57:29, 31). Others in the shape of gavels or “calendars” have the same decoration (pls. 55:26, 49, and 27, 28; 56:23; 57:28). More to the point are two beads, each decorated with ring-and-dot motif (Tufnell 1953: pls. 66:36; 67:114).

Tel Batash: The ring-and-dot motif appears around the edge of a broken bone plaque (No. 9588), the exact function of which remains in doubt (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:263–264; photo 195).

Tall Jawa: Probably closer in form is the single cuboid die from the Ammonite site of Tall Jawa (TJ 238) which is decorated with the circle-and-dot motif. Although recovered from an early Islamic locus (D12:5; Daviau 2010:392; fig. 12:7), this style of gaming piece and the ring-and-dot design on pendants and other objects was already known in the Iron Age both in Cisjordan and in Transjordan (Platt 1978; Bienkowski 2011: fig. 7.2:16).

Royal Tombs of Ur: A gaming board with inlaid ring-and-dot motif resembling the side of a die with five dots was part of the royal tomb assemblage (British Museum 1969:Pl. VII).

1-A/2g. Small tubular beads

One small bead is unique; it appears to be made from a paste tube wrapped in gold foil and cut to form individual beads. Although slightly damaged, the edge of the foil is visible where it overlaps along the length of the bead. This technique had a long history in Egypt where faience beads covered with gold were already known at el-Amra in the pre-dynastic period (Nicholson 2000:179).

CATALOGUE

WT 228 (Fig. 12.4:11; A2:39/54). VII.B.2.b, Short Cylinder/tube, paste with gold foil; L 4.5, Ext D 6.5, Int D 3.0 mm; chipped.

Parallels

Salamis: Along with spherical crystal beads and gold fluted beads in Tomb 1, there were five gold linking beads all part of a necklace (Karageorghis 1969: pl. 4).

Nimrud: Small tubular beads, alternating with biconical beads, appear on the necklaces of the royal eunuchs shown on a stone carved relief in the palace of Assur-nasir-pal (Glubok 1970:2–3, 18 detail).

I-A/2h. Silver pomegranate-shaped beads

Only one possible ornament representing a fruit was found on the site; from its current appearance, it may have been broken before its discovery.¹⁰ The pomegranate-shaped object has a hole in the centre which is surrounded by granulated spheres. This granulation represents the persistent calyx, the flower-like bloom at the bottom of the fruit. Intact ornaments representing complete pomegranates are typically in pendant form with the flower hanging down as it does in nature (Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: figs. 127:28; 135). In some instances, the fruit is more abstract in form, similar in shape to a lotus seed pendant, although the differences can be seen clearly when comparing a necklace of lotus seed pendants from Mari with a headband with pomegranate pendants from Ugarit (Musche 1992:187–188; pl. lxxv:3, *Kopfschmuck*, respectively). The fact that WT 257 is hollow is also notable; this may suggest that it was originally a spherical metal bead, typically hollow,¹¹ rather than a cap designed to fit onto another bead.

CATALOGUE

WT 257 (Fig. 12.4:12; A2:39/58). XXVI.A.2.g, bead/cap

representing fruit; Silver; preserved L 4.5, Ext D 9.0–9.5, Int D 1.7 mm; Gray (7.5YR 5/1); Broken.

Parallels

Ceramic pendants in the shape of pomegranates and pomegranate buds appear to have been suspended from the denticulated bowl with which they were found at En Ḥaṣeva (Ben-Arieh 2011:158; fig.40). Metal pendants in these shapes were known from even larger objects, such as bronze tripods.¹² In the line of jewellery, Maxwell-Hyslop (1971:242–243; figs. 127:28; 135; 136) assigned the pomegranate pendants hanging from crescent-shaped earrings depicted on Neo-Assyrian reliefs to his Type 5. An ornament of this type was indeed recovered from a Middle Assyrian tomb at Aššur where it was part of a headdress (Musche 1992:176–177, fig. 1). A series of gold pomegranate pendants were part of a necklace of long carnelian beads with gold caps from Mārlik Tepe (Musche 1992: pl. lxxiv:1.3.3). The pomegranate motif also appears on other types of jewellery, such as a bronze pin from Tomb 91 at Palaephaphos-Skales dated to the Cypro-Geometric I period (J. Karageorghis 1983:339; fig. cxcic:72B). Although not identified as a bead, a small, broken ivory pomegranate was one of the few grave goods in Tomb Z V at Akhzib (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: fig. 3.6:5).

Yoqne'am: A small faience pomegranate (Ben-Tor and Rosenthal 1978:81; fig. 12:13) is an example of a miniature object in the form of this popular fruit.

Gezer (Ard'Ain el-Butmeh): A black glass bead in the form of a pomegranate was recovered from a badly disturbed group of tombs (65–73) assigned to the Byzantine period (Macalister 1911: pl. lxxxvi: upper left).

Amman: Among the silver earrings is one with a pomegranate-shaped ornament suspended from a hoop (Hadidi 1987: fig.

11:20).

Dhibân: A small green glass pendant in the shape of a pomegranate is slightly larger than the other beads from Tomb J4 (Tushingham 1972: fig. 25:11).

Tell el-Amarna: Beck uses as an example a faience pomegranate pendant from the 18th Dynasty (Beck 1981: fig 24, Group XXVI.b.2.g).

1-A/2j. Shells used as beads¹³

There were 21 possible shell ornaments recovered during excavation (Chart 12.3; Reese, Chapter 10).¹⁴ The shells were holed and are thought to have been perforated to accommodate stringing. In some instances, the perforation is natural and therefore rough. Other shells needed to be perforated manually, while cowrie (*Cypraea annulus*) usually had the dorsum removed. According to Beck (1981:54), natural shells which were used intact or cut are assigned to category I.3.

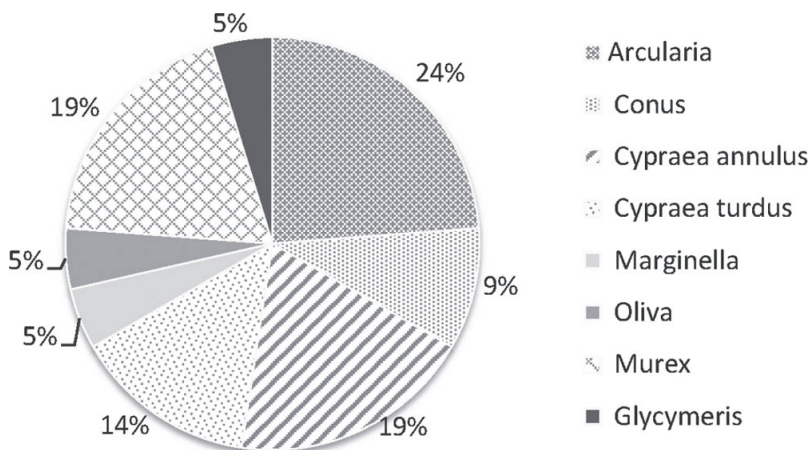


Chart 12.3. Holed shells according to species

1-A/2j-1. Cowrie beads

CATALOGUE

Cowrie shells include WT 116-2/616; WT 130-2/630; WT 331; WT 367; WT 445; WT 483; WT 534.

Parallels

Transjordan: During the Late Bronze–Iron I transition period in the Baq‘ah Valley (Reese 1986: fig. 104:2, 5), cowrie were placed in tombs, as they were in the late Iron II and early Persian period graves at Tall al-Mazar (Reese 2002:279). Cowrie shell beads are also represented in town sites, such as Tall Dayr ‘Alla and Tall as-Sa‘idiya (Reese 1986:328–329), Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002:39; fig. 2.17:1–4; Reese 2002), Busayra (Reese *et al.* 2002:458), Tawilan (Reese 1995a:93), Umm al-Biyara and Ghrrarah (Reese 2002:278; 2011).

Cisjordan: A group of 60(?) cowrie with dorsum removed were found strung in the form of a headband in Stratum-IX Tomb 2121 at Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 227:4). Cowries and other beads found together were present in Locus 2081 at Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 217), at Tell Keisan (Nodet 1980: pl. 95:56), Tel Michal, in both Iron Age and Persian period burials (Kertesz 1989:370; pls. 79:2, 7; 80:1) and at Beth Shemesh (Grant and Wright 1938: pls. xlviii:21; lii:16). At Ḥorvat Qitmit (Mienis 1995:276–277; fig. 6.6) there were 18 cowries belonging to the species *Cypraea annulus*, some of which were attached to the lower body of a ceramic statue (Beck 1995: fig. 3.16). Whether others were used as jewellery or protective amulets could not be determined.

1-A/2j-2. Conus beads

Two *Conus/Strombus* apices were also identified as beads (WT 214, WT 362).

Parallels

Transjordan: Holed *Conus*, either whole or only the whorl (apex),

appear in tombs and town sites in the Baq‘ah Valley (Reese 1986: fig. 68:2–6, 25–26), at Tall al-‘Umayri (Platt 1989: fig. 27:489), Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002:39–40; fig. 2.18:1, 2; Reese 2002:280), Ḥisban (Platt 2009: figs. 13.2:29; 13.24:1, 24:5), Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: fig. 25), Tawilan (Bienkowski 1995: fig. 9.32:1, 2) and Umm al-Biyara (Reese 2011:110–111).

Cisjordan: In published reports, the identification of holed and unholed *Conus* shells varies; they are described as “conch” shells at Hazor (Yadin *et al.* 1961: pl. ccxxxiv:17–18), and as a button at Tell Keisan (Nodet 1980: pl. 95:55). *Conus ebraeus* and two examples of *Conus* whorls were identified at Beth Shan (James and McGovern 1993: fig. 147:7; 145:1, 2). Other examples come from Megiddo (Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 91:77), Beth Shemesh (Grant 1932: pl. xlix:33a, 47, 48) and Beer-sheba (Herzog 1984:31).

1-A/2j-3. Arcularia beads

A number of other beads were also holed, including five *Arcularia gibbosulus*, although no single group was as common as cowries.

CATALOGUE

Arcularia gibbosulus, WT 389, WT 464, WT 476, WT 496, WT 549.

Parallels

Tell Fakhariyah: Although from a much earlier period (late Old Babylonian), a holed *Arcularia* from Sounding VI is classed with the beads (Kantor 1958: pl. 44:24).

Ugarit: Three holed *Arcularia* from a well were identified as ornaments (Calvet and Geyer 1987: pl. 3h).

1-A/2j-4. Murex used as ornaments

Perforated *Murex* are present in two species, *M. trunculus* and *M.*

brandaris. These large imported shells were treasures in themselves and were also used as pendants and/or as beads in a necklace.

CATALOGUE

M. trunculus, WT 52, WT 152; *M. brandaris*, WT 60, WT 108.

1-A/2j-5. Glycymeris

A very common shell chosen as a pendant or large bead in a necklace is the *Glycymeris* or dog-cockle; the best example is perforated at the umbo.

CATALOGUE

Glycymeris WT 238.

Parallels

See the extensive reports of Reese (1995a; 1995b; 2002) as well as the examples from Hisban (Platt 2009: fig. 13.24:2–3).

1-A/2j-6 + 7. Marginella and Oliva

Only one shell each of *Marginella* and *Oliva* were holed.

CATALOGUE

Marginella, WT 569; *Oliva*, WT 106.

1-A/2j-8. Fossil sea urchin

The fossilized sea urchin ([Chapter 11](#)) is found at a number of Iron Age sites and appears to be a very common jewellery item. However, the function of urchins with a partial perforation cannot be confirmed; they may have been intended for use either as jewellery or as a spindle whorl. Unperforated urchins may have been intended as votives. Two fossils from WT-13 are partially perforated. Of special interest for this study are the seven fossil sea

urchins from the temple at the mining site of Timna⁶, north of the Red Sea (Price 1988: pl. 154:4–5).

CATALOGUE

Urchins: WT 120-2/620, WT 129-2/629.

Parallels

Transjordan: Other examples come from several sites in the territories of Ammon and Edom, such as Umm ad-Dananir, Tall Jawa (Daviau 2002: fig. 2.19:1–3; Reese 2002:282), and Busayra, where 71 fossil sea urchins were studied by McNamara (Reese *et al.* 2002:442–447).

Interpretation

Although WT-13 is a small site, the corpus of beads is relatively large and high status when compared with finds from other Iron Age sites. At Ḥorvat Qiṭmit, only one bronze and three stone beads, one scaraboid and 18 cowries are reported (Beit-Arieh 1995: figs. 6.3:9–11; 6.4:9; Mienis 1995: fig. 6.6), while at Tel ⁶ Aroer, 20 tiny limestone beads, 6 hand-made clay beads and one of carnelian (Thareani 2011:217–218) were recovered. At Mudayna Thamad, with its domestic, industrial and cultic buildings, 80 beads were recovered during 13 seasons of excavation, and at the much larger site of Lachish, during the Ussishkin excavations, 90 beads were catalogued. Thus the single room site of WT-13 yielded a sizable assemblage, in which the percentage of carnelian beads, the presence of one gold and one silver bead, as well as scarabs and imported shells, point to high status jewellery probably acquired through long distance trade.

The random distribution of the beads suggests that they were either gifts brought to the shrine or had been lost by participants. In the Iron Age, depending on status, both men and women wore jewellery, including earrings, bracelets and beads. This is seen

clearly in contemporary iconography, especially in the ornaments on figurines and on figures shown on Assyrian reliefs. This means that the jewellery alone cannot be used to identify the sex of the worshippers who frequented WT-13.

Notes

1 Disc beads have a length (L) less than $\frac{1}{3}$ the diameter; short beads have a L of more than $\frac{1}{3}$ and less than $\frac{9}{10}$ the diameter; standard beads have a L of more than $\frac{9}{10}$ and less than $1\frac{1}{10}$ the diameter; and long beads have a L of more than $1\frac{1}{10}$ the diameter. All measurements given in the catalogue are in mm.

2 An initial study by Cole (2003) compared beads from sites in Ammon, Moab and Edom.

3 This is also the opinion of Platt (2009:278).

4 In the corpus of 402 beads from Cemetery A at Tall al-Mazar in the Jordan Valley, the use of carnelian appears to be in decline, with only 17% of beads in carnelian. In its place, glass (39%) and faience (34%) dominate the corpus (Yassine 1984:111–112).

5 In the description of the beads, colours were chosen from both the Munsell Soil Color and Rock-Color Charts.

6 The first type in the Tall Jawa bead typology was “disc-shaped stone beads” (Daviau 2002:34); since there are no examples of this type in the present corpus, the single “pear-shaped” bead has been inserted in its place. Circular/spherical, barrel-shaped, biconical and cylindrical beads then follow.

7 All beads are illustrated longitudinally as seen in Beck (1981: pls. ii, iii). Forty-nine of the best examples are shown in the figures of this chapter.

8 Unfortunately this bead is now missing and its identification could not be confirmed.

9 The diameter of the perforation is given as 0.15 cm, a measurement that does not seem to correspond with the scale in the image (Platt 1991:260; fig. 10.75).

10 The small size of this bead makes it difficult to confirm its identification but more detailed objects from contemporary sites favour the pomegranate as the most likely motif for WT 257. Similar in shape is the lotus seed pendant, a form that appears in

both Egypt and Palestine, for example at Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 215:114) and at Beth Shean (James and McGovern 1993: fig. 60:15), as well as at Tall al-Umayri (Platt 1989: fig. 20.7:428).

11 Hollow metal beads with a spherical shape can be seen in the gadrooned bead from Tomb 118 at Deir el-Balaḥ (Dothan 1979: fig. 189).

12 Ben-Arieh (2011:158) cites examples from Ugarit, Tel Nami, Megiddo and Cyprus.

13 The siglum “i” is not used in this sequence.

14 Complete details and parallels are cited by Reese ([Chapter 10](#)); as well, the images for the shells used as beads are included online.

Nabataean and Roman pottery and objects

P. M. Michèle Daviau, with an Excursus by Robert M. Kerr

Introduction

A small number of sherds and partially mendable vessels that derive from the Late Hellenistic–Early Roman period occupation in the region are discussed in this chapter. These finds, along with a handful of objects, compare well to pottery and objects from the Nabataean settlement at Mudayna Thamad to the east and to WT regional survey sites, such as Mughur Šābik (WT-12) (Ladurner 2012) to the south and Tauga (WT-6), Qasr az-Zaʿfaran I (WT-34) (Ferguson 2006:279–280) and Qasr az-Zaʿfaran II (WT-32) to the north. The easily identifiable Early Roman vessels include Petra style bowls, one bowl base and lower body, two cooking pots, one cooking casserole lid, a juglet body and a juglet base. The remaining 38 sherds are recognized by their fabric as contemporary, but their vessel type cannot be affirmed with certainty. Only one body sherd with a finger depressed ledge handle appears to be from a Late Roman casserole, such as one from Jarash (Clark *et al.* 1986: fig. 20:7).

Among the objects located at the site were a glass inlay (bezel), a square shaft nail, and a rotary millstone fragment, which cannot be assigned with certainty to the Nabataean–Early Roman period. More secure is a single tesserae and a large stone fragment with a Thamudic inscription, both of which are probably contemporary with the Nabataean pottery.

Pottery

Bowls

Three types of bowls are represented; those with a tall bevelled rim, Petra-style small bowls with an upright thickened rim and everted rim bowls.

Bevelled-rim carinated bowls

Five sherds, representing three discrete vessels, appear to be offset rim bowls, broken at the change of direction. In each example, the rim is thinned at the lip, bevelled to the outside above a broad shallow groove and incised with a series of vertical cuts, 8.0 mm apart.

CATALOGUE

A1/49.11 (Fig. 13.1:1). Rim D 14.5, rim H 1.7 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior; sherds.

A2/54.5 (Fig. 13.1:2). Rim D 15.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) fabric and exterior; sherd.

A2/17.1 (Fig. 13.1:3). Rim D 15.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/4–8/3) fabric and exterior; sherds.

Although these vessels are quite distinctive, no known parallels can be cited at this time.

Vertical rim Petra bowls

A number of rim sherds from small Petra-style bowls are the most

easily recognizable Nabataean pottery from WT-13. Three sherds of a single bowl were made of a levigated red ware with a band of white slip covering the exterior of the rim.¹ A second vessel (A6/9.1) is undecorated and a third (A5/7.30) is represented by a sherd with a sharp change of direction. Only the best preserved example is illustrated.

CATALOGUE

A7/1.1 (Fig. 13.1:4). Upright rim; D 13.5, rim H 0.9 cm, rim T 3.5 mm; body T 1.8 mm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) paint; sherds.

Plain ware vessel

The best preserved example of a full size bowl consists of the lower body and ring base of a vessel made of finely levigated clay covered with a gray slip(?). The thin body suggests that this vessel was a small unpainted Petra-style bowl, although areas of slip or paint resulted in discolouration. A second base sherd has a pinched ring base (A1/26:9).

CATALOGUE

A2/3.16 (Fig. 13.1:5). Ring base + lower body; D 4.7 cm; light red (10R–2.5YR 7/8) fabric and interior, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) surface, dark gray (7.5YR 4/1) slip(?), colour uneven; sherd.

Parallels

Parallels for Petra small bowls are found in small numbers at Ammonite town sites, such as Tall Jawa south of Amman (Daviau 2016: fig. 7:1) and at Tall Madaba. Heavier concentrations are found in the region at Qasr Zafaran and al-Walid (Parker 1986: figs. 61:202, 63:255, 256), as well as at the Nabataean settlement at Mudayna Thamad (WT-1; Daviau *et al.*

2000: fig. 7:3; 8:1, 2), where the dominant bowl diameter is 14.0 cm (Sidoroff 2013: fig. 3; chart 1) and at Mughur Šābik to the south (WT-12; Ladurner 2012: fig. 46:2), all within a 5 km radius. On the Rāma Plateau, several Nabataean bowls were found at Rāma itself (Parker 1986: fig. 59:133, 134), while innumerable parallels come from the Petra region, from the survey of Šabra, flanked by the Jabal Mutheilya massif (Lindner 1992: fig. 3: item 5, from the top), and from Ḥumayma (Oleson *et al.* 2008: fig. 22:1). Only random examples were recovered at Khālde to the south (Parker 1986: fig. 72:561, 562) and at sites in the Ghor, such as Khanazir (Rast and Schaub 1974: fig. 12:321, 322, and possibly, 326).

Incurving rim bowl

Only a handful of *terra-sigillata* and African Red Ware sherds were recovered during excavation and survey at the site. The best preserved is an ARW rim with a sharp inner curve and shallow body. Several body sherds, including A10.100.17, have a dark *terra sigillata* fabric, probably Eastern Terra Sigillata B.

CATALOGUE

A10/6.1 (Fig. 13.1:6). Rolled rim: D 29.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) slip; red ware; sherd.

Parallels

En-Gedi: A shallow African Red Ware bowl (de Vincenz 2007: pl. 7:11) is close in shape, but not identical.

Everted rim bowls

More common in the Late Roman repertoire, rather than in the Nabataean assemblage, is a red ware bowl sherd with an everted rectangular rim, grooved on the lip. In contrast to African Red Slip ware, this sherd is unslipped.

CATALOGUE

A2/34.1 (Fig. 13.1:7). Rim D 17.0 cm rim T 0.6 cm; fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) fabric, gray (5YR 5/1) core, red (2.5YR 5/8) surfaces; sherd.

Cups

One small base sherd is the best representative of a small plain ware cup with a string cut base.

CATALOGUE

A4/3.1 (Fig. 13.1:8). Base and lower body; base D 2.4 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6–7/6) fabric and exterior; sherd.

Parallels

Rajib tombs: One example of a small deep vessel has a thickened base which is most probably a string-cut base (Bisheh 1973: pl. xxvi.2:10), although the base is not illustrated.

Petra, North Ridge: Two cups from Tomb 2 are examples of the complete form of small cups with a thick base (Bikai and Perry 2001: fig. 9:9, 10).

Cooking pots

The cooking pot at WT-13 consists of a thin-walled closed vessel with a plain vertical neck, a bevelled lip forming a small triangular rim, opposing strap handles, and a ribbed body typical of the late Hellenistic–early Roman period in both Palestine and Transjordan. The tiny rim has a miniscule ridge on the lower edge resulting in a profiled form. The sharp change of direction at the base of the neck results in a high rounded shoulder with gentle ribbing becoming more pronounced on the body. The join of these two zones is marked by a broad rib at the change of direction. This vessel was made on a fast wheel with the result that the wall and neck is thinned to *ca.* 1.2–2.5 mm. Two other vessels are

represented in the sherd material, one with broad ribs of uneven thickness (A22/53.42) and a second group with fine crisp grooves and narrow flattened ribs (A2/61.9+13R/71.22). Another group of body sherds come from the lower body and base. These pots are clearly different from Late Roman cooking pots which have a thicker body wall and oval loop handles (Gerber and Fellmann Brogli 1995: fig. 2:1, 2), rather than the strap handles seen at WT-13 and at other Nabataean sites in the Wadi ath-Thamad area. Thus, P13/109 is assigned to the Nabataean–Early Roman period.

CATALOGUE

P13/109 (Fig. 13.1:9; A1/54.3). Rim + shoulder + handles; rim D 11.5, max body D 22.0+ cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric throughout, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior; broken.

Parallels

Pella: Among the Roman period finds in Tomb 12 is a thin-walled cooking pot with a bevelled grooved rim, opposing handles and a ribbed body (McNicoll *et al.* 1982: pl. 132:10).

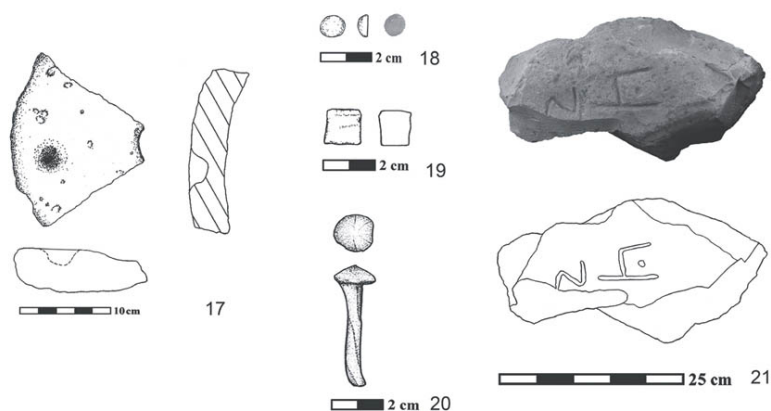
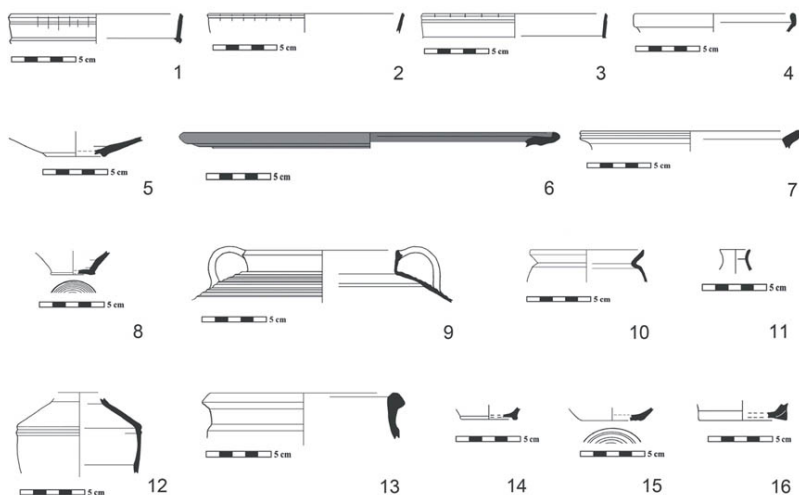


Figure 13.1. Pottery and objects: 1–7) bowls 8) cup; 9) cooking pot; 10) pyxis/cosmetic jar; 11) unguentarium; 12) juglet; 13) storejar; 14–16) bases; 17) upper rotary millstone; 18) glass bezel; 19) tessera; 20) nail; 21) inscribed stone

Amman Citadel: Several cooking pots of early-Roman date (3rd century AD) were used as coffins for miscarried foetuses; one pot with folded handles, ribbed body and grooved base (Zayadine 1973:25; fig. 4=pl. xv.2) is a close parallel to P13/109.

Rujm al-Malfuf: Both simple rim and grooved or bevelled rims are present on the Nabataean cooking pots from the initial soundings (Boraas 1971: figs. 24–26).

Rajib: Within the loculus tombs at Rajib was an assemblage of early Roman pottery and lamps that included a ribbed body cooking pot (Bisheh 1973: pl. xxxvi.2, left).

Tall Ḥisbân: Gerber (2012: figs. 3.17:14; 22:1, 2) assigned the bevelled rim and small triangular rim cooking pots with a straight vertical neck to the Early Roman II–III and IV periods (37 BC–AD 73; AD 73–135).

Petra: Although the emphasis in Nabataean pottery studies has been focused on the painted bowls and their designs, cooking pots with a vertical rim and ribbed body are present in contemporary assemblages (Schmitt-Korte 1970: fig. 6).

Humayma: Apart from their surface slip, the Nabataean pottery at Humayma offers good parallels to the pottery at WT-13 with several examples of ribbed cooking pots with tiny triangular rim profiles (Oleson *et al.* 2008: fig. 22:11).

Tel Anafa: In Cisjordan, a good example of this type is seen in the globular “necked triangular rim” plain ware pots studied by Berlin (Berlin and Slane 1997: pl. 24: PW 208).

Jerusalem: Thin-walled triangular rim cooking pots were also in use in Jerusalem during the 1st century AD (Berlin 2005: fig. 4).

Tell en-Naṣbeh: A single cooking pot from Tomb 71 (Wampler 1947: pl. 50:1070) manifests the same vertical neck and rim, body shape and ribbing as P13/109, although the pot fired a darker red (10R 5/4) on the exterior (x2, Badè Collection; personal observation).

Jericho: Cooking pots with a globular ribbed body and a vertical or

slightly flaring neck appear with several rim forms, one of which is the bevelled rim. Two pots have a sloping shoulder while one has a high shoulder, closer in shape to P13/109 (Bar Nathan 2002: pl. 12:144, 148, and especially 146).

Pyxides/cosmetic jar

Small closed vessels in fine Nabataean red ware are included in the Nabataean repertoire but there are few parallels which could shed light on their precise function, although their presence in tombs suggests that they were cosmetic containers. The single example from WT-13 has a flaring rim and high shoulder.

CATALOGUE

A1/16.9 (Fig. 13.1:10). Rim D 9.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/8) fabric and surface; sherds.

Parallels

Petra, Tomb B1,1: A small pot with simple vertical rim and gently ribbed body is a good parallel (Zayadine 1979: pl. lxxxvii:2).

Ḥumayma: A small jar imported from Petra is included in the 1st century AD pottery assemblage (Oleson *et al.* 2008:335; fig. 23:1).

Unguentaria

Nabataean unguentaria are small, thin-walled vessels with a long neck and ovoid body. One rim sherd with a flaring lip may belong to this type of vessel.

CATALOGUE

A1/26.10 (Fig. 13.1:11). Crisp ware; D 2.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6–7/6) fabric and exterior, gray (N 6/) core; sherd.

Parallels

Petra, North Ridge: Ungentaria with the flaring rim stance appear in both Tombs 1 and 2 (Bikai and Perry 2001: fig. 6:6, 7; 11. 12).

Petra, Tomb B1,1: Two examples of small unguent bottles were recovered, one of which has a flaring rim (Zayadine 1979: pl. lxxxvii:5).

Juglets

No juglet rims are preserved among the random sherds, however, two mended crisp ware sherds form the shoulder and body of a straight-sided juglet, apart from several grooves below the change of direction for the shoulder.

CATALOGUE

A2/57.4 (Fig. 13.1:12). Body; D 9.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric, gray (10YR 5/1) core, light red (2.5YR 7/8) exterior; broken.

Storejars

A single Late Roman storejar sherd with a profiled rim and a neck ridge is included in this group of late pottery.

CATALOGUE

A1/62.21 (Fig. 13.1:13). Rim + neck; D 13.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/8) fabric and exterior; sherd.

Parallels

En-Gedi: This form has a long history with parallels in both Roman and Byzantine contexts (Johnson 2007: pl. 5:62; de Vincenz 2007: pl. 60:2, 3).

Bases

Among the sherds of small fine ware vessels are two bases of

Nabataean red ware (A10/100.15; A1/26.9); the latter is a pinched ring base. Also in the assemblage is a flat base with concentric grooves on the bottom (A2/50.15), as well as a thick-walled ring base that may be Late Roman or Early Byzantine.

CATALOGUE

A10/100.15 (Fig. 13.1:14). Attached ring base; D 4.5 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) throughout; sherd.

A2/50.15 (Fig. 13.1:15). Flat base; D ca. 4.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 7/6) throughout; sherds.

A2/102.2 (Fig. 13.1:16). Triangular ring base; D 7.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/8) exterior; sherd.

Artefacts

Ground stone tools

As an indicator of food preparation during the Nabataean–early Roman period and later, a large fragment of a well-worn rotary millstone was present at WT-13. Rotary millstones were in use from the late Roman period to modern times, although the date for the earliest use of this style of crushing equipment has not been determined for the southern Levant (Sidi 2007:548).

CATALOGUE

WT 261-4/547 (Fig. 13.1:17; A10:0.5/1). Basalt rotary millstone; D 35.0, central hole D 8.5, handle depression D 3.0, Dpt 2.0 cm; fragment L 13.5, W 18.8, T 4.0; broken.

Description: WT 261 consists of a portion of the upper disc-shaped millstone with the central hole and the handle depression. The lower surface is slightly concave as a result of wear.

Parallels

Mudayna Thamad: The upper stone of a set of a complete set of rotary millstones (MT 252) is the same style of millstone as the fragment from WT-13 (MT Object Registry). Made of pink granite, it is, however, heavier and thicker than WT 216. Although found in the debris of a Nabataean building (B800), its precise date cannot be confirmed.

Tall Jawa: Amid the Roman–Byzantine rock-cut installations south of the Iron Age mound there was one fragment of a rotary millstone (TJ 345) in the vicinity of cistern M87 (Battenfield 2016: fig. 3.25:3). A second, badly worn millstone fragment of vesicular basalt (TJ 441) was recovered from Building 600, which was in use during the Early Islamic period (Daviau 2010: DVD database).

En-Gedi: Fragments of 28 rotary millstones were identified, most of which have a raised rim around the upper central opening and are Medieval in date; these were assigned to the Mamluk period (Sidi 2007:549). Two fragments were designated as lower rotary stones, one with a diameter of 44 cm (Sidi 2007: pl. 5:5, 6).

Glass bezel

A glass inlay, probably a bezel, is convex on the top and flat on the bottom. Although von Saldern (1980:104) identifies the shape of Roman period glass ring stones as a two-fifths segment of a sphere, comparable to WT 525, our classification remains tentative since there may have been other uses for a small glass inlay.

CATALOGUE

WT 525 (Fig. 13.1:18; A3:1/16). Round inlay; D 0.9, T 0.4 cm; light greenish gray (10G 8/1); intact.

Parallels

Corinth: Although not known previously from central Jordan, glass bezels were identified as items of jewellery in the collection of

small finds from Corinth (Weinberg 1952:223; nos. 1781–1787).² In her study, Weinberg assigned light green glass pellets to the Hellenistic period.

Tesserae

A single tessera from the surface is clearly a random find. Compared to tesserae from Byzantine and early Islamic contexts, this is a small cube, closer in style to Roman period tesserae, although multiple sizes could be used in any given period (Foran 2010: table 4B).

CATALOGUE

WT 372 (Fig. 13.1:19; A2:0.5/1). Limestone tessera; L 1.4, W 1.3, T 1.1 cm.

Nails

Another find of uncertain date was located in soil at the northern crest of the hill. This object is a handmade nail with a semi-round domed head and a square shaft, slightly twisted. Small nails from the Roman–Byzantine periods were in use for securing attachments on large objects, such as coffins, while large nails were common in the construction of buildings.

CATALOGUE

WT 41-2/541 (Fig. 13.1:20; A2:7/31). Iron nail; L 4.9, head D 1.6, shaft D 0.6 cm; tip broken.

Parallels

En-Gedi: A good example is a 6.5 cm iron nail with a square shaft, a conical or dome-shaped head and a broken tip (Chernov 2007: fig. 5; pl. 1:17; see also, pl. 1:11–16, 18).

The Thamudic inscription WT 559-6/528

Robert M. Kerr

WT 559 (=TT/24; Fig. 13.1:21) is a fragment of limestone, approximately 36 × 20 cm in size, incised by an unpractised hand with three roughly inscribed sinistroke letters, *z b n* (might also read vertically *ḡ b n*, although this would seem less likely). The last two letters may be read as *bn* “son of”, indicating the filiation, and then presume previously a name ending in *-z* (or *-ḡ*). However, as nothing seems to follow the last letter (nor do there seem to be any remnants of a letter preceding the incipit, though this is by no means certain) it might be safest to assume a name, *zbn*, and interpret the text as a one word graffito.

The name *zbn* is of course well-attested. In Thamudic it is, for example, found in *CIS* v 165 etc. (Winnett and Reed 1970:86, no 48b), in Safaitic as *zbn* (*CIK* 606,1, *WR* 471), *zbn* (feminine), *zbn̄y* (nsiba adjective?; A. C165, 2423, Harding 1971:294), possibly as a variant *zbn* (*zbnm*, *yh̄zbn* in A SIJ 375), and elsewhere in Ancient North Arabian as *zbn*. As the latter attestation seems to indicate ([*zbn*] = *status emphaticus*), the name is in all likelihood of Aramaic origin, where the root is productive (*peal* “to buy”; *paal* “to sell”; Beyer 1984:556–557)³ and is common in personal names, for example in Nabatean as *zbyn* (Cantineau 1930:91) and in the Talmud (Chajes 1901:20). In the Hebrew Bible it is attested once in an Aramaic context, namely among the returning exiles, *Zebina* (𐤆𐤁𐤏𐤏, /zəvīnā/, LXX Ζαμβίνα), one of the descendants of the priests who had married foreign women.⁴ Hence, it is unsurprising that the name is attested from the seventh century BC onwards in Mesopotamia in both Aramaic (Maraqten 1988:78, sub *zdn* and *zdn*)⁵ and Akkadian (Tallqvist 1914:231)⁶ cuneiform documents. In the Hellenistic Near East, the name is also attested in both Greek inscriptions (Wuthnow 1930:48–49) and papyri⁷ as Ζα/εβινᾶς, most famously as the Syrian nickname of Alexander II “Zabinus”, the stooge of Ptolemy VIII Physcon, who claimed to be the legitimate heir and adopted son of Antiochus VII Sidetes during the chaos after the

Seleucid loss of Mesopotamia.⁸

The name *Zabin* (/zabīn/) itself means “bought” from the Aramaic root *zbn* as noted above (in the *status emphaticus* /zabīnā(𐤆)/𐤆 /zəbīnā(𐤆) with phonetically conditioned vowel reduction, “the bought one”). M. Noth (1928:231–232) classified the origins of this name as one of those which represents “die besondere Lage des Namenstragers in seiner Kindheit ... weil es verwaist war oder aus anderen Gründen, verlassen war, verkauft, angenommen wurde u. dergl....” Maraqtan (1988:159) sees rather a relation to “freikaufen, befreien”, i.e. someone who has been bought out of slavery, similar to Latin “libertus”. This was recognized by Porphyry, who (see note 6), with regard to Alexander II’s supposed origins, renders the latter’s nickname as ἀγοραστός “bought, paid for”.

References for the Thamudic Inscription

CIS Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum

P. Cairo Zen Cairo Zenon Papyri

Chronicon Porphyry apud Eusebius

Notes

1 At Rujm Ṭāba in the Arabah, the paint colour on a Nabataean Fine Ware bowl with an incurving rim is a much darker yellowish red (5YR 4/6), while the vertical rim bowls do not appear to have white slip on the rim (Dolinka 2002:441; fig. 16a–c).

2 My thanks to S. Gallimore for recommending this resource.

3 The other possibility, Gəʿəz əz 𐩣𐩪𐩨/zāban/“back, back part, tail, border” (Leslau 1991:631), is neither productive as a verb nor does it seem to have an appropriate meaning (and may be an Arabic loan).

4 A passive participle peal “bought”. See also Zadok (1988: 414). Wagner (1966:75) rightly sees this as an Aramaic name.

5 Once attested seemingly with a theophoric element as *zbn’dn* (=KAI 233:14; Maraqtan 1988:159).

6 As *Za-bi-nu/a(-a’)*. Cf. Tallqvist 1914:231 – examples now partially re-edited in Kwasman 1988:18 (line 8), 32 (line 1), 60

(line 1), 267; Coogan 1977:23, 72. Further attestations include Lipiński 1994:220 (line 18) and 235 (line 25); Radner 2004/1:26 (lines 1, 4); Mattila and Collon 2002:86 (line 6), 130 (line 17), 174 (line 9).

7 E.g. Ζαβεῖνᾱτ (dative) P. Cairo Zen. 1 59004, col. 2: 69 (written in Palestine ± 259 BC); Ζαβῖνᾱς I. Hermoupolis 5:31, 222 (Hermopolis, 80/79 BC); Ζαβῖνᾱτος I. Philae 1 31, 7 (Philae, 89 BC); Adriani (1935–1939:121, no. 8, 6 = *Bulletin épigraphique* 1950:222 (Alexandria, 332–330 BC). Note here that Ζαβῖνᾱς is the historical spelling, Ζεβῖνᾱς shows vowel reduction in the first syllable and εῖ in Ζαβεῖνᾱτ at this time does not represent a diphthong but rather /ī/.

8 See Josephus, *Antiquities*, viii, 9, 3. See in detail Justin, *Hist.* xxix who (4) reports that he was an Egyptian imposer sent by Ptolemy: inmittit iuvenem quendam Aegyptium, Protarchi negotiatoris filium, qui regnum Syriae armis peteret. Differently Porphyry apud Eusebius, *Chron.* ed. Schoene, i 250.

Part 3

Landscape archaeology

Regional survey and landscape archaeology at WT-13 and WT-18 (al-Rumayl)

*Christopher M. Foley with contributions by P. M.
Michèle Daviau*

Introduction

Landscape archaeology is one component of archaeological survey and spatial analysis that has as its focus the geographical, economic, and cultural spheres in which ancient peoples lived.¹ The British tradition of regional survey and purposeful aerial photography can be seen in the work of David Kennedy and Robert Bewley in Jordan (2004). In 1998, they expanded on Kennedy and Riley's previous study of Roman sites (1990) to include sites of various periods, such as al-Rumayl and Khirbat al-Mudayna ath-Thamad (henceforth, Mudayna Thamad). Their work brought into closer perspective certain sites in central Jordan visited by Glueck during his 1933 survey, as well as those visible in the earlier Hunting Aerial Survey undertaken in 1953.

The regional survey of the Wadi ath-Thamad Project was at once a purposeful survey, returning to previously identified sites,

and a random survey to locate additional sites and better understand the catchment area of the Thamad drainage basin. At the same time, the survey was designated by the permit of the Department of Antiquities as a 10×11 km zone surrounding Mudayna Thamad (WT-1, UTM Easting 775889, UTM Northing 3498452; 628 m asl). This regional survey was designed to fill a gap between the Khirbat Iskandar Project on Wadi Wala, the western extension of the Thamad, and the survey work of Miller and Pinkerton (1991) south of Wadi Mujib. However, it did not cover the Dhībān Plateau, which was subsequently chosen by Ch.-H. Ji as a study area (Ji and Lee 2003). With the discovery of WT-13 along the western perimeter of the Wadi ath-Thamad survey area, it became apparent that the landscape around the site was critical to understanding its setting and function.

Landscape archaeology attempts to situate a site in its broader context in relation to its geographical setting, the sites in its vicinity, the local trade routes, the economy of the region, and cultural attitudes toward space and interaction. For WT-13, the most obvious feature in its immediate vicinity is al-Rumayl, a heavily fortified Iron Age site occupying a prominent location due north of the shrine. A preliminary study of the survey pottery from al-Rumayl (WT-18) confirms, even without excavation, that these sites were contemporary (see below), and that al-Rumayl was settled during all phases of use of WT-13.²

In order to better understand the function of WT-13 in its various phases, its relationship to the fortified settlement to its north and to the broader environment, an intensive survey was conducted over several seasons around WT-13 itself and around al-Rumayl (WT-18).³ Eight features in the vicinity of WT-13, consisting of collapsed caves, depressions and cisterns, were identified in 1996, as well as the architectural remains on top of the hill. Evidence for the occupation of al-Rumayl and utilization of the surrounding fields is evident in the remains of several dozen cisterns, cave tombs and wall lines visible on the surface. The

original boundary between the features assigned to WT-18 and those closer to WT-13 is obscure. Additional features are located to the south and east of WT-13, but are not included in this study.

The initial survey by Dearman in 1996 and 1997 served as the basis for the complete documentation of features surrounding both WT-13 and WT-18 during the 2003 field season, directed by C. M. Foley. He was assisted by Dr. Bernard A. Haberstroh, M.D., who served as photographer, along with Michael Malloy, Amanda Di-Loreto and Heidi Wilson. Survey work was carried out with the ongoing support of the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Department's local Madaba director, Mr. Ali al-Hayyat, and its representative Ms. Reem Shakour.

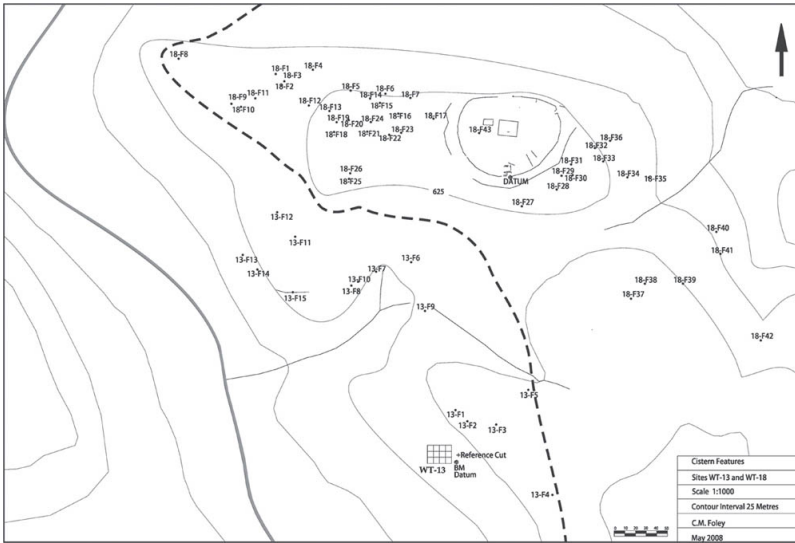


Figure 14.1. Topographical map of the cisterns and caves in the area of WT-13 and WT-18

Setting of WT-13 in its landscape

Site WT-13 is situated on a narrow plateau overlooking Wadi Rumayl (an extension of Wadi ath-Thamad), 295 m south and slightly to the west of Rujm al-Rumayl (Figs. 14.1, 14.2a). The site

is separated from the surrounding escarpment by a steep descent into the Wadi Rumayl on the southwest and a rugged ravine descending from the north into the wadi on the west side of the plateau. A more gentle gully descends from the east on the north side of the plateau, which is a spur of the Rumayl escarpment, a component of the al-Hisa Phosphorite formation (Cordova, [Chapter 1](#)). The slopes of the plateau are characterized by alternating beds of hard and soft limestone, with a very light soil cover. Occasionally there are bands of chert, or chert embedded in limestone. Erosion has produced the “step” or “terrace” pattern of slope common to the Thamad Graben. The geology has facilitated the development of a number of underground caverns and caves along the edges of the harder limestone. These caverns are the source of the cisterns which surround WT-13 on the east and north sides.

Features surrounding WT-13

The only features that share the narrow plateau with WT-13 are Features 13/1, 13/2, 13/3 and 13/4. Further to the north are ten other caves and rock depressions, some of which are closer to al-Rumayl than to WT-13. This report describes first those assigned to WT-13 and then provides an introduction to al-Rumayl, its pottery, and its surrounding features.

Feature 13/1 ([Figs. 14.2b, 3a–c](#)) is a bell-shaped cistern carved out of bedrock on the northeast slope of the hill. This feature is one of only a handful that could be entered and its function identified with certainty. The mouth is rectilinear on the north and west sides and slightly curved on the south and east. This opening measures *ca.* 1.00 × 1.10 m, while the bell-shaped cavity has an interior diameter of *ca.* 4.00 m and a depth of 1.40 m ([Fig. 14.3b, c](#)).



a



b

Figure 14.2. a) North side of hill at WT-13 from the northeast; b) Feature 13/1

Feature 13/1 (UTME 772770, UTMN3496725) is 54 m downslope to the north and has a bearing of 1° east of the Bench

Mark/Datum Point at WT-13 (UTME 772771, UTMN3496672); the cistern has a top elevation of 618.00 m, 9.00 m below the Bench Mark of 627.00 m asl.

Feature 13/2 (Fig. 14.4a) is a large depressed area of bedrock collapse, which may mark the location of a cave or cistern, although here the preservation is very poor. As a result, the width and depth cannot be determined,

Feature 13/2 (UTME 772784, UTMN3496716) is 43 m from the Bench Mark and further to the east (Bearing 16°) on the same slope as Feature 13/1; it also is at an elevation of 618 m.

Feature 13/3 (Fig. 14.4b) is a curvilinear opening measuring 1.80 m in length. Only the curved top of the recess is preserved suggesting either a cave or a rock-cut tomb.

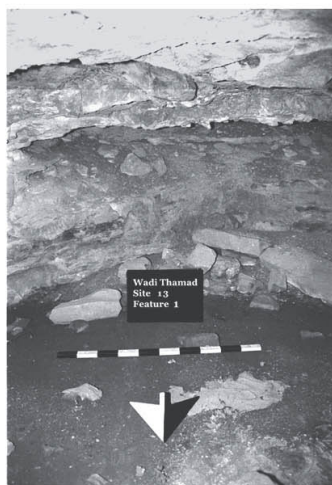
Feature 13/3 (UTME 772811, UTMN3496710) is further down slope 55 m from the Bench Mark and to the east (Bearing 48°) at an elevation of 607 m.



a



b



c

Figure 14.3. a) Feature 13/1, bedrock surrounding the mouth of the cistern; b); close-up of the partially hewn mouth of Cistern 13/1; c) detail of interior of bell-shaped cistern

These three features form a distinct group on the northern face of the hill below WT-13 and within 55 m of the site.

Feature 13/4 ([Fig. 14.5a](#)) is in a different locale. This feature is a cave in which a portion of the roof has collapsed and another portion remains in position, resulting in two adjacent formations. The collapsed debris and later deposition precludes any precise determination of breadth and depth. The open areas that remain are not readily accessible. The interior is composed of collapsed limestone and sediments of various origins, from natural erosion depositions to refuse. Feature 13/4 is *ca.* 4.20 × 2.30 m, with a depth of *ca.* 1.10 m. The intact limestone between the two openings is 1.80 m wide, with the opening on the north 1.40 m wide and the one on the south 1.08 m wide. Originally, this cave may have been used as a tomb.



a



b

Figure 14.4. a) Feature 13/2, looking west along north side of the hill; b) Feature 13/3, looking southwest

Feature 13/4 (UTME 772891, UTMN3496633) is to the east

of WT-13 (Bearing 110°), close to the point where the plateau meets the broader escarpment. It is 100 m from WT-13 at an elevation of 617 m. Nevertheless, its location on the same plateau as WT-13 suggests an association with the latter site.

Cistern Feature 13/5 (Fig. 14.5b) consists of twin openings divided by a central overhang of limestone. Altogether this cave feature is ca. 4.20 m wide; the western opening (A) is 1.40 m wide and the eastern opening (B) is 1.00 m, with the overhang measuring 1.80 m. The depth of these recesses is 1.10 m. Feature 13/5 is a poorly preserved cave which was obscured by boulders that had been piled up against it during road building activities.



a



b

Figure 14.5. a) Feature 13/4; b) Feature 13/5

Feature 13/5 (UTME 772861, UTMN3496765) is located to the northeast (Bearing 110°) of WT-13 and upslope from the gully

at the edge of the modern road. The elevation is 608 m and the distance from WT-13's Bench Mark is 100 m.

Features 13/6 and 13/7 (Figs. 14.6a, 14.6b) are located on the same slope that rises towards the plateau on which al-Rumayl is located; they are located north of WT-13 and west of al-Rumayl. Both features (13/6, 13/7) appear to be collapsed caves, although the stone formation above the opening of Feature 13/7 is similar to lintel stones above tomb openings (see 18/2 below). Like Feature 13/5, these depressions are just below the new road, and have been disturbed by construction activity. The modern road runs above the top of Feature 13/6.

Feature 13/6 (UTME 772737, UTMN3496870) is northwest (Bearing 352°) of WT-13 at a distance of 200 m and an elevation of 596 m.



a



b

Figure 14.6. a) Feature 13/6; b) Feature 13/7

Feature 13/7 (UTME 772675, UTMN3496888) is located to the west of Feature 13/6. It is 200 m northwest (Bearing 338°) of

WT-13 at an elevation of 596 m.

Feature 13/8 (Fig. 14.7a) is furthest away from Site WT-13 and consists of a deep cistern with one chamber and a vertical shaft. This feature is identified as a cistern on the basis of its vertical stone-cut shaft opening in the bedrock. The shaft measures 1.10×0.70 m and is 0.64 m deep before opening into a cavern. The present height of the cavern immediately below the shaft is *ca.* 2.00 m. It should be noted, however, that there is a significant deposit of sediment immediately below the shaft. The nature of the fill in the opening prevents any assessment of the size or condition of the cistern's interior.

Feature 13/8 (UTME 772644, UTMN3496875) is 200 m northwest of the shrine across a steep portion of the western ravine (Bearing 330°) at an elevation of 596 m



a



b

Figure 14.7. a) Feature 13/8; b) Feature 13/9

Feature 13/9 ([Fig. 14.7b](#)) is further from WT-13 than Features 13/1, 13/2 and 13/3, but its location does provide something of a

spatial link between the site and the more distant features, such as Features 13/5, 13/6 and 13/7. It is one of three cave-like depressions similar to Features 13/11 and 13/12. The partial collapse of Feature 13/9 left a small cave under the limestone ridge that once formed the edge of the chamber, which is fronted by a shallow, circular depression. The depression is 3.00 m $\times$ 2.75 m. The cave opening is 2.45 m wide $\times$ 0.55 m high. The chamber interior is filled with sediment and, as a result, its dimensions are unknown.⁴

Feature 13/9 (UTME 772788, UTMN3496820) is located between Features 13/5 and 13/7, and slightly to the south. It is on the east side of the upper (northeastern) ravine and to the east (Bearing 10°) of WT-13. Feature 13/9 is at a distance of 150 m from the shrine at an elevation of 602 m.

Feature 13/10 (Fig. 14.8a) shares much in common with Feature 13/4 (see above) but is adjacent to Feature 13/8. It is possible to consider Features 13/10 and 13/8 as being more closely related to those at al-Rumayl than those immediately below WT-13. This cave has multiple openings, similar to Tall Jawa Feature 13a-k with ten openings in the bedrock (Battenfield *et al.* 2016).

Feature 13/10 (UTME 772651, UTMN3496881) is at a distance of 200 m from WT-13 with an elevation of 596 m.

Features 13/11, 13/12 and 13/13 can also be grouped with the al-Rumayl features, though they were recorded and studied as an aspect of the work associated with Site WT-13. A secondary road separates them from WT-13, but they do rest on the same spur of the escarpment as the southwestern-most Rumayl features. These features, whose parameters are within several meters of each other, form a tight spatial grouping.



a



b

Figure 14.8. a) Feature 13/10; b) Feature 13/11

Feature 13/11 (Fig. 14.8b) is the largest bedrock cistern of the group. While its state of preservation makes it impossible to

determine its precise dimensions, it appears to measure *ca.* 24×16 m and, based on measurements taken at the opening, was *ca.* 2.00 m deep. The original circular opening (0.86×0.84 m) remains intact and is located upslope to the north of the collapsed portion. The collapsed depression measures 6.42×4.47 m and is 1.51 m in depth. Between the depression and the intact portion of the cistern roof is another cave opening, measuring 4.80 m across and 1.27 m in height. A modern wall 1.40 m thick, with an opening 2.00 m wide covered by a corrugated metal sheet, closes the opening. Post-collapse, the cave-like portion has been used as a storage area and as an animal pen, while the depression is a repository for garbage.⁵ These more recent uses obscure the original dimensions and depth of this feature.



a



b

Figure 14.9. a) Feature 13/12; b) Feature13/13

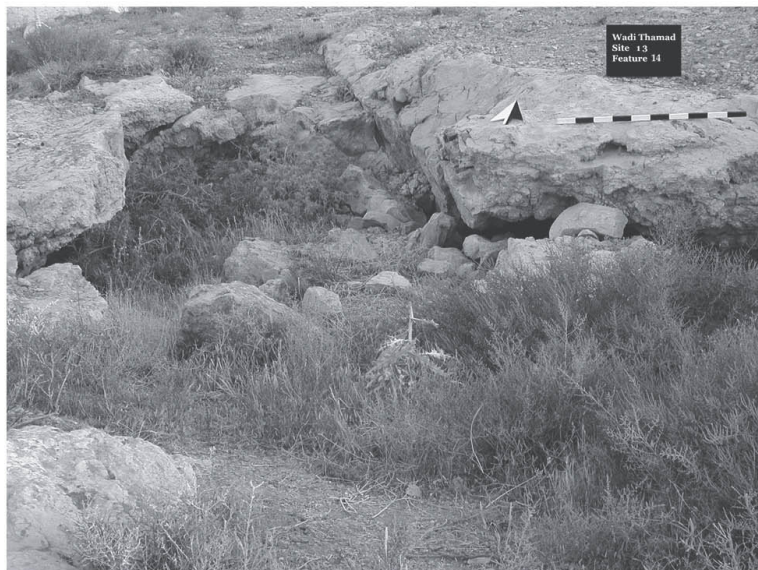
Feature 13/11 (UTME 772606, UTMN3496890) is northwest of WT-13 (Bearing 325°) at a distance of 270 m from the site and

with an elevation of 606 m.

Feature 13/12 (Fig. 14.9a) measures 10.00×9.80 m, with a depth of 1.80 m. The cave-like entrance to the intact portion of this structure is 6.70 m across and 1.60 m high. The cave goes back 3.60 m, progressively narrowing towards the back. Post collapse, the feature has served a variety of storage functions, as well as that of an animal pen. The arched openings of Features 13/12 and 13/14 are similar to the entrances of Tombs UCV-20 and UCV-84 at Mount Nebo (Saller 1966: figs. 2, 3, 5, 6).

Feature 13/12 (UTME 772587, UTMN3496900) is to the west, also on a heading of 325° from WT-13. It is 300 m from the latter at an elevation of 605 m.

Feature 13/13 (Fig. 14.9b) has a west-facing natural opening that was almost completely filled to the roof.



a



b

Figure 14.10. a) Feature 13/14; b) Feature 13/15

Feature 13/13 (UTME 772574, UTMN3496891) is slightly to the south of Feature 13/12, on a heading of 315° and 290 m from

WT-13 at an elevation of 602 m.

Feature 13/14 (Fig. 14.10a) is a collapsed cave similar to 13/6, where the collapse may have been the result of earthquake that shifted the layers of chert and limestone over a 1.5 – 2.0 m distance.

Feature 13/14 (UTME 772588, UTMN3496874) also is on a heading of 315° and is 270 m from the site, at an elevation of 602 m.

Feature 13/15 (Fig. 14.10b). The sole feature recorded as part of the Site WT-13 survey that is not a collapsed cave/cistern is Feature 13/15, a possible “natural” quarry. This feature is a shelf of chert exposed in an arc for ca. 37.40 m along the slope of the ridge to the northwest of WT-13. While the width of the shelf varies, a width of 2.80 m is representative. The exposed stone exhibits patterns of weathering, which form long blocks, and there are areas where scars appear along the shelf indicating that some of the blocks either broke off naturally or were deliberately removed. Typically, both blocks and scars measure ca. $1.00 \times 0.27 \times 0.25$ m. While there are no signs of tool marks, it is possible that chert outcrops such as Feature 13/15 were the source of many of the stones used to construct WT-13 and al-Rumayl to the north.

Feature 13/15 (UTME 772598, UTMN3496829) might also be more closely associated with al-Rumayl than with WT-13, as it is separated from the latter by the ravine. It is 230 m from the site on a heading of 317° and an elevation of 575 m.

Summary of bedrock features near WT-13

Generally speaking, the features are in very poor condition. Of the 15 features, only two cisterns, 13/1 and 13/8, are intact and, along with Feature 13/11, are the only cisterns that have the typical narrow-mouth opening of bell-shaped cisterns. The other possible cisterns have either completely collapsed, or collapsed in

such a way as to leave a portion of the roof forming a bridge between opposing edges (Features 13/4, 13/10), or leaving a portion of the chamber intact with a cave-like entrance (Features 13/9, 13/12). The majority of features were probably caves that have collapsed completely, leaving a circular, often rock-filled, depression, delineated up slope by a ridge of the original limestone perimeter or opening (Features 13/2, 13/3, 13/5, 13/6, 13/7, 13/13, 13/14). These depressions often become the repository for a wide variety of modern trash. The latter could be said of a number of the partially collapsed cisterns as well. With the exception of Feature 13/2, the dimensions of the collapsed caves average 9.05 m for length, 8.91 m for width, and 1.73 m for depth. The length to width ratio suggests that many of the original features were circular or ovoid.

The proximity of Feature 13/1 to the site and its bell shape are strong indicators of its importance to the activities carried out on the summit. This opinion is further supported by the number of broken jug sherds recovered in both secure loci and in pockets in the bedrock. The cisterns and caves further afield may require additional exploration and even excavation to better understand their relationship to either WT-13 or to the larger site of al-Rumayl.

Al-Rumayl (WT-18) and its bedrock features

The site of al-Rumayl (aka er-Rumeil; Rujm al-Rumayl; UTM Easting 772802, UTM Northing 3496983; 632 m asl; [Fig. 14.11a](#)) is located on a prominent rise overlooking Wadi Rumayl to the north ([Fig. 14.11b](#)). With its distinctive circular shape, prominent central tower and heavily built surrounding wall and dry moat ([Fig. 14.12a, 12b](#)), it was already known to early explorers who traveled through central Transjordan. In 1872, Tristram (1874:176) camped near this “old fortress” which he describes as located 300 m above the Thamad. Details and illustrations of this site were provided by Brünnow and Domaszewski, who explored

Jordan in 1895, 1897, and 1898.



a



b

Figure 14.11. a) Al-Rumayl from the south, with Qasr Za'faran (upper left) and Rujm al-Hiri (upper right) on the highest points of the northern hills; b) the feeding plain north of al-Rumayl

Brünnnow and Domaszewski (1904:27; figs. 11a, 13) documented the location of al-Rumayl on the south side of the

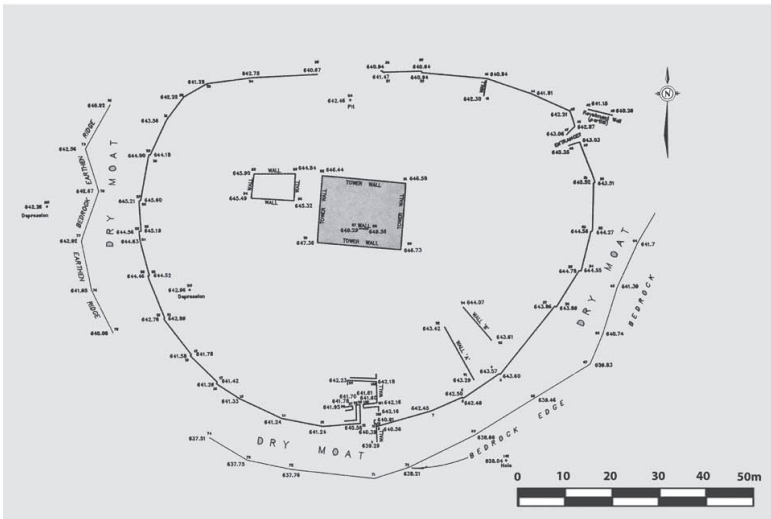
Thamad, took a photo of the central tower, and drew a plan which shows the site as a complete circle, not truncated on the north as it is today by agricultural terracing. The central tower in their plan measures $16.00 \times 19.00 \times 6.00$ m in height. It was only in 2001 that R. Force mapped WT-18 for the Wadi ath-Thamad Suvery and calculated the inner diameter as *ca.* 105.00 m and the maximum diameter including the moat, as 123.50 m.

It was Nelson Glueck (1939:118; fig. 46) who described in detail the severely damaged site of al-Rumayl (site 176) and identified it as a fortified village with houses built adjacent to the outer fortification wall surrounding a central “blockhouse”.⁶ His measurements of the central tower are 18.90×15.00 m, with walls 1.50 m thick (Glueck 1939:118). Al-Rumayl was one of a group of sites that Glueck thought comprised a line of fortresses protecting the border of Moab. For Bennett (1978:165, 168), Khirbat al-Rumayl is an example of the types of fortresses where Aššurbanipal stationed troops to maintain his control of the King’s highway from Damascus to Edom. The strategic location of al-Rumayl and its extensive line of sight is ideal for overlooking the wadi and the good agricultural lands that served as a feeding plain. Although the area around al-Rumayl was uncultivated at the time of Glueck’s survey, it is again exploited with both agriculture and horticulture flourishing to the north and east of the site (Fig. 14.11b).



(AP498/SL34.15, 20 May 1998)

a



b

Figure 14.12. a) Aerial photograph of al-Rumayl by Kennedy and Bewley (APA98/SL 34. 15, 20 May 1998; b) plan of al-Rumayl with its central “tower”, circular fortification wall, south gate, and moat; prepared by R. T. Force (2001)

Glueck (1970:175) noted as well that there were wall lines of

structures outside the fortification wall as well as numerous cisterns, suggesting a large settlement. A study of surface pottery from the site led him to suggest that al-Rumayl was contemporary with Mudayna Thamad and Rujm al-Hiri, based principally on the similarity of painted designs (Glueck 1939:121). Of more significance for our study is the chronological range of unpainted wares recovered by the Wadi ath-Thamad survey team⁷ and the obvious parallels with pottery from WT-13.

Pottery from the regional survey (seasons 1996–1999, 2003), P. M. Michèle Daviau

Located on the south bank of Wadi Rumayl, the westward extension of Wadi ath-Thamad, the Iron Age settlement of Rujm al-Rumayl was a border town, where the dominant pottery tradition is Moabite with a smaller proportion of Ammonite forms. Among the 106 sherds collected by the Regional Survey, 45 sherds and three reworked stoppers are presented here.⁸ Unique in this assemblage is a late Iron I–IIA collar-style pithos of gray ware (Fig. 14.13:1); the fabric, well-known at Tall Jawa, consists of a thick gray core, a fingernail-thin light red margin and a dark gray surface slip. Typically, these gray ware vessels do not have the tall rims of Early–Middle Iron I pithoi seen at Tall al-ʿUmayri (Herr 2001) and are probably to be dated to Late Iron I at the earliest. One white-slipped bowl (Fig. 14.13:2) also has a gray ware paste. Other Late Iron I–Early Iron II vessels are represented by thick-walled rounded bowls (Fig. 14.13:3–9) in a variety of fabrics. A single triangular rim bowl (Fig. 14.13:10) is common in Iron II assemblages while everted rim bowls (Fig. 14.13:11) are few. Also unusual are bowls with a flattened lip and straight side (Fig. 14.13:12, 13), as are two examples of triangular rim vessels (Fig. 14.13:14, 15.).

Rim sherds from one-handled cups are more difficult to identify, since they share several features with perforated tripod

cups. In this assemblage, only one example of each style of rim is illustrated (Fig. 14.13:16–18); the last example is perforated through the shoulder. Although there are no rims that can be assigned with certainty to a chalice, one sherd (Fig. 14.13:19) represents a chalice base similar to those found in the Yavneh favissa (Panitz-Cohen 2010: fig. 7.3:10, 11) and to a painted chalice 4235/1 from Late Iron II Tel Malḥata (Freud 2015: fig. 4.130:12). One flat thin-walled juglet base (Fig. 14.13:20) and disc bases from medium size bowls (Fig. 14.13:21–22) are common in Iron II Moab, while one broad ring base (Fig. 14.13:23) is suggestive of thick-walled amphorae, a form also known in Ammon and in the Jordan Valley at Tell al-Ghazāleh (Petit 2009a: fig. 10.15:11).

Three sherds were reworked and served domestic purposes. WT 592 (Fig. 14.13:24) was reworked into the shape of a disc, as were two other sherds. Discs were frequently used as stoppers or were in storage to be reshaped for other uses. WT 591 (Fig. 14.13:25) is broken in half and its intended use cannot now be determined. However, WT 590 (Fig. 14.13:26) was reworked as a disc and subsequently drilled to form a spindle whorl.

Kraters represent Iron I, Early Iron II and Iron IIB–C forms. A triangular rim with flattened lip and a heavy white slip appears to be the earliest type (Fig. 14.14:1). Similar to kraters from WT-13 is the flaring rim form (Fig. 14.14:2) along with the inward sloping rim style (Fig. 14.14:3), a form that occurs at Tell al-Kharābeh North (Petit 2009: fig. 10.14:15) as late as Iron IIC. Another Early Iron II form is the thickened rim with flattened horizontal lip and ridge below the rim (Fig. 14.14:4). Better known from sites in Ammon are the incurving thickened and triangular rim krater forms (Fig. 14.14:5–8). Also present are a thick-walled krater with a flattened lip and a large sherd from a biconical krater with a thickened ridged rim (Fig. 14.14:9, 10).

Only five cooking pot sherds were identified and these reflect various traditions. Best known in central Jordan are the thickened

and folded rim pots (Fig. 14.14:11–12), comparable to pots at WT-13 (Fig. 3.9:6–13), along with a rim with external thickening (Fig. 14.14:13). Two narrow mouth cooking jugs reflect Judean forms (Fig. 14.14:14, 15) and have a parallel in an Iron IIB context in the market area of Beer-sheba (Panitz-Cohen 2005: fig. 7:7).

Storejars and jugs are few but among them the dominant rim form is profiled (Fig. 14.14:16, 17). One thick walled juglet/pyxis body is outstanding in that it has a unique fabric with the texture of compacted sand (Fig. 14.14:18). The closest parallel is a jug (V851) with similar fabric found at Tall Jawa (Daviau 2001a:231).

Lamps are bowl-shaped vessels with a flaring simple rim (Fig. 14.14:19, 20), a style common throughout the Iron Age. More important for comparison with WT-13 is a large basin sherd (Fig. 14.14:21), which has a twin at WT-13 (WT13-A9/5.10). Thus the majority of sherds can be assigned to the Iron II, with a handful dating earlier and a few later. The most distinctive late form is that of a Hellenistic painted jar, made of hard-fired levigated clay (Fig. 14.14:22). This vessel has a parallel, except for the shape of the lip, in the Nabataean–Early Roman Villa (B800) at Mudayna Thamad (personal observation; P8015), as does the flattened ring base of a Petra-style small bowl (Fig. 14.14:23; Sidoroff 2013).⁹ Another example of a late form (Roman or Byzantine) consists of a large ribbed body sherd and handle (R18/51.9, not shown) made of a thin crisp ware.

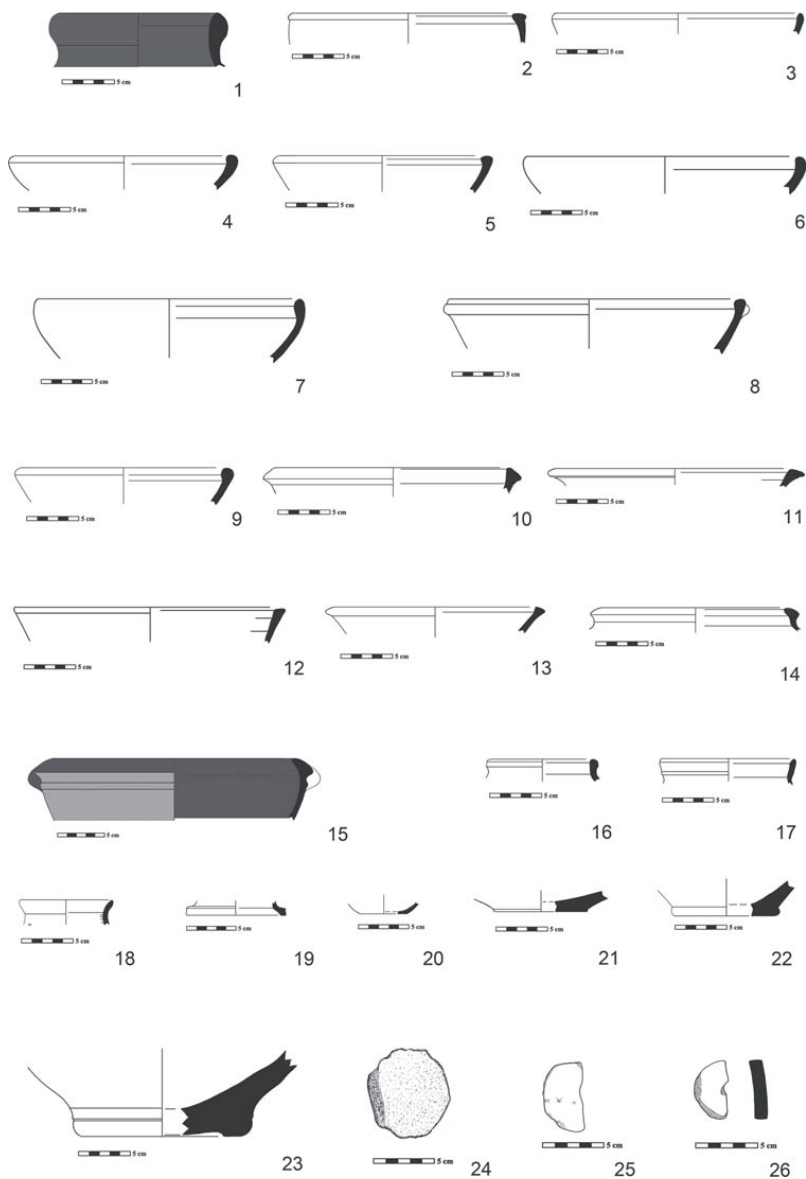


Figure 14.13. Iron Age pottery: 1) pithos; 2–15) bowls; 16–18) perforated cups; 19–23) bases; 24–26) reworked sherds from al-Rumayl (WT-18)

Figure 14.13. Iron Age pottery

PITHOS

1. (18R/52.9). Pithos; D 15.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) margin, dark gray (7.5YR 4/1) slip; gray ware.

BOWLS

2. (18R/53.7). Thickened rim bowl; D 20.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric, pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) slip; gray ware.
3. (18R/51.16). Simple rim; D 23.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2) exterior.
4. (18R/211.13). Incurving rim; D 20 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.
5. (18R/52.2). Bowl; D 19.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) exterior.
6. (18R/23.2). Incurving rim; D 25.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
7. (18R/23.7). Incurving rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, pink (5YR 7/3) exterior.
8. (18R/51.8). Rim + bar; D 28.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.
9. (18R/52.15). Thickened rim; D 19.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, pink (5YR 6/6) exterior.
10. (18R/23.3). Triangular rim; D 23.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, light gray (10YR 7/2) exterior.
11. (18R/51.10). flaring rim; D 22.0 cm; light gray (2.5YR 7/1) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.
12. (18R/52.5). Flattened rim; D 24.0 cm; pink (7.5YR 8/3) fabric and exterior.
13. (18R/211.1). Triangular rim; D 17.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
14. (18R/211.15). Triangular rim; D 15.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.
15. (18R/218.1). Inverted triangular rim; D 25.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) fabric, red (10R 4/6) interior slip.

PERFORATED CUPS

16. (18R/211.4). Faceted rim; D 9.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/8) exterior.
17. (18R/51.17). Flaring rim; D 12.4 cm; very pale brown

(10YR 7/3) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.

18. (18R/23.1). Tripod cup; D 9.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior; perforated.

BASES

19. 18R/53.4. Chalice trumpet base; D 9.5 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) exterior slip.

20. (18R/211.6). Miniature base; D 4.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

21. (18R/51.1). Bowl, disc base; D 9.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

22. (18R/52.14). Bowl, disc base; D 10.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) slip.

23. (18R/51.20). Amphora, ring base; D 16.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) exterior.

REWORKED SHERDS FROM AL-RUMAYL (WT-18)

24. (WT 592; D 7.1 cm; Reworked sherd.

25. (WT 591; D 5.6 cm; Reworked sherd.

26. (WT 590; D 4.5, T 0.5 cm; Reworked sherd, spindle whorl.

Figure 14.14. Iron Age pottery

KRATERS

1. (18R/53.1). Krater; D 25.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) slip.

2. (18R/51.13). Flaring rim; D 23.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.

3. (18R/23.6). Sloping rim; D 23.0 cm; pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2) fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) exterior.

4. (18R/53.5). Triangular rim; D 26.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

5. (18R/52.10). Incurving rim; D 29.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 8/2) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) exterior.

6. (18R/51.3). Inverted rim; D 26.5 cm; reddish yellow (5YR

7/6) fabric, very pale brown (10R 7/3) exterior.

7. (18R/31.1). Incurving triangular rim; D 28.4 cm; pink (7.5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

8. (18R/51.5). Inverted rim krater; D 21.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) fabric and exterior.

9. (18R/217.1). Carinated krater; D 19.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) slip.

10. (18R/217.3). Carinated krater; D 22.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/3) fabric and exterior.

COOKING POTS

11. (18R/53.3). Folded rim cooking pot; D 20.0 cm; light red (10R 6/6) fabric and exterior

12. (18R/52.16). Thickened rim cooking pot; D 20.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.

13. (18R/52.1). Thickened rim cooking pot; D 17.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

14. (18R/23.4). Cooking jug; D 11.0 cm; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior.

15. (18R/52.17). Cooking jug; D 10.0 cm; red (2.5YR 4/6) fabric and exterior.

JUGS

16. (18R/51.15). Jar; D 8.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

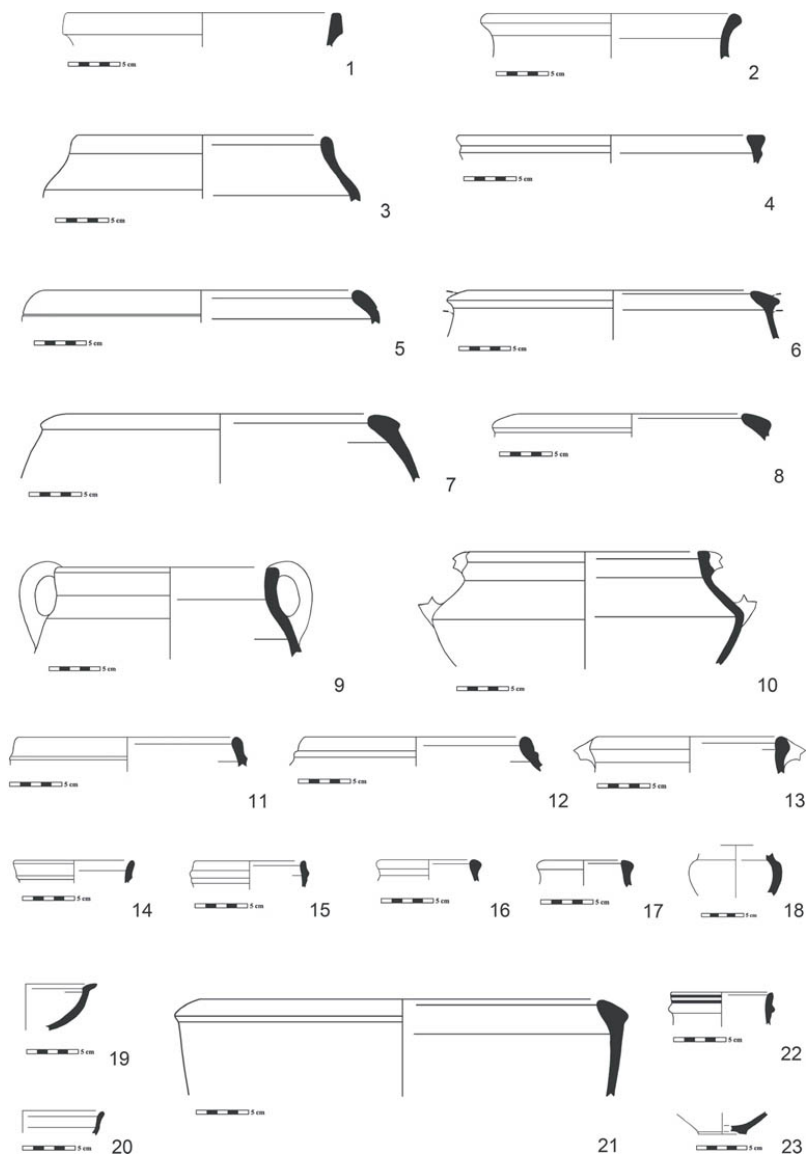


Figure 14.14. Iron Age pottery: 1–10) kraters; 11–15) cooking pots; 16–17) jugs; 18) pyxis/juglet; 19–20) lamps; 21) basin; 22–23) Hellenistic–Early Roman vessels from al-Rumayl (WT-18)

17. (18R/52.4). Jug; D 7.0 cm; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) slip.

PYXIS/JUGLET

18. 18R/211.30). Pyxis/Juglet; max body D 11.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/2) exterior.

LAMPS

19. (18R/69.3=P18/1). Lamp; D 14.0 cm; light red (2.5YR 6/6) fabric and exterior.

20. (18R/52.6). Lamp; D 15.0 cm; pink (5YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

BASIN

21. (18R/215.1). Basin; D 36.0 cm; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) fabric and exterior.

HELLENISTIC-EARLY ROMAN VESSELS FROM AL-RUMAYL (WT-18)

22. (18R/69.2). Jug/Jar; Hellenistic/Early Roman; D 9.0 cm; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) fabric, very pale brown slip, gray (10YR 5/1) paint.

23. (R18/217.6). Petra-style small bowl; D 4.8 cm; gray (N 5/) fabric, light red (10R 6/6) exterior.

Cisterns and caves

The cisterns and caves surrounding Site WT-18 (Rujm al-Rumayl UTM Easting 772802, UTM Northing 3496983; 632 m asl) have been examined and recorded several times using different approaches (n. 1 above). In 1997 a pedestrian survey recorded 34 cistern, cave and tomb-like features on the plateau surrounding Rujm al-Rumayl. In 2001, the principal site was itself mapped using a total station ([Fig. 14.12b](#)). While the work focused on the fortress, a number of points were taken on various cistern/cave features. The Survey team carried out a final pedestrian survey in 2003, recording all features using a GPS (Garmin III), taking digital photographs, and recording the features' basic measurements. The goal was to use this new data to reconcile the two previous bodies of data. As well, it was hoped that a re-examination of the area would generate new data, which would help place the cisterns and caves around Sites WT-18 and WT-13 in a clearer context.

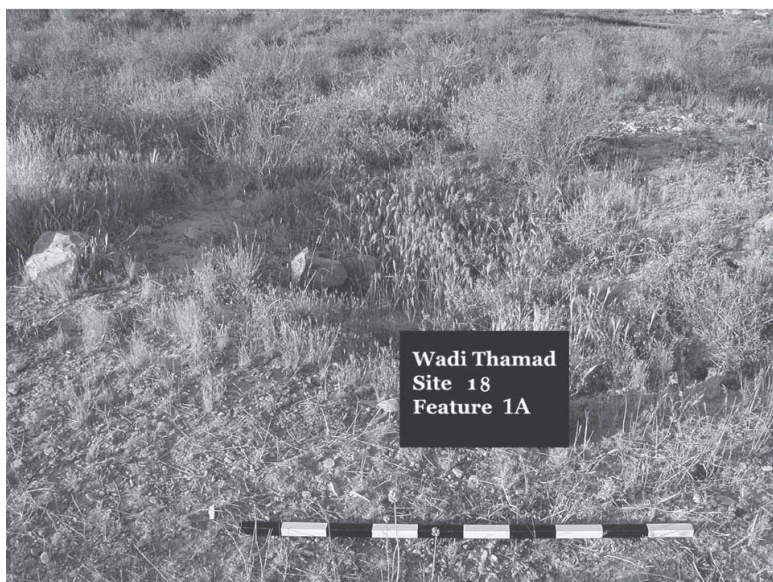
The 2003 Regional Survey recorded 43 features (Fig. 14.1), with some having more than one component, for a total of 49 elements. Thirty-seven were identified on the plateau surrounding the site, outside the outer walls and moat; features 18/1–18/26 were located west of the walled town, 18/27 was to the south, while the remaining features were to the east and southeast. One other feature, 18/43,¹⁰ was recorded inside the fortress's perimeter walls and five were located across a shallow valley on the slope of the hill south of the site. Of the cistern or pit-type features identified, there were six examples of “complete” cisterns. For the purposes of the current report, a “complete” cistern is one that has its original opening and roof intact. In some instances, the neck was stone-lined. Cisterns that had a larger entrance cut to adapt the cistern for other uses, such as storage, are also considered complete. A “partial” cistern is one that is partially collapsed, leaving a bedrock-rimmed depression in the ground, with part of the original roof remaining intact and forming a small cave. Seven such features were located and documented. “Collapsed” caves are identified on the basis of a circular or oval scar or depression in the ground delineated in part by bedrock ledges that represent the original perimeter of the feature. The survey identified nine examples of this type of feature. The above categories with a large opening may represent what were originally cisterns or collapsed caves. Thus twenty-two cave/cisterns are confirmed to have existed in the general vicinity of al-Rumayl. “Possible” caves/cisterns are marked by scars or depressions which may have been cisterns, but do not have characteristics that allow for a positive designation; there are fourteen examples in this category. Thus the total number of cave/cisterns may have been as high as thirty-six.

Another important category of in-ground features is rock-cut tombs. The survey identified with certainty three Iron Age tombs, two others as possible, and two stone circles as possible late (Ottoman?) burials. There was also an extensive wall line running

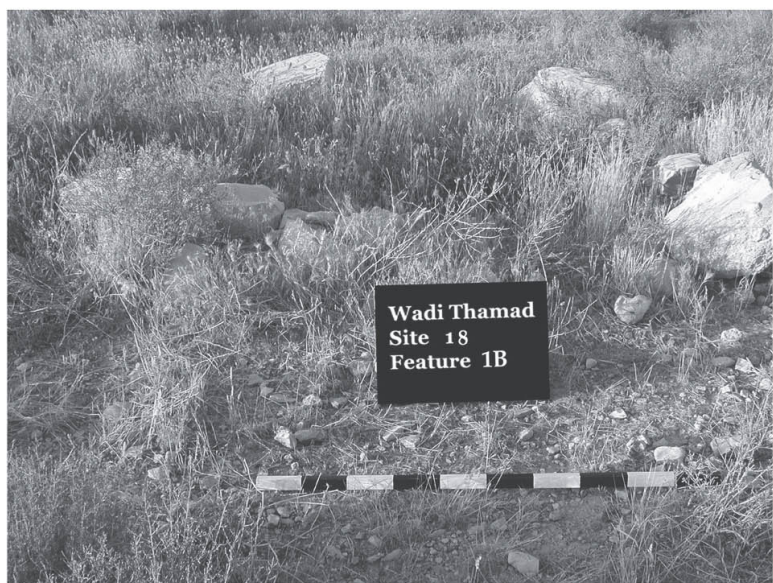
north-south toward WT-13. Finally, there was one feature located near the modern road that was anomalous. This was a deep circular cut made into surface sediment and bedrock. The arrangement of stones in the southern and eastern portion of the cut gave the impression of deliberate construction. This feature did not have the general characteristics that would have led the survey to label it a cistern. The feature has the appearance of a well, but its position on the plateau is problematic. It is possible that the circular hole was the opening of a cistern which, due to its proximity to the modern road cut, has been so damaged that it is now obscured.

Feature 18/1 (Fig. 14.15a–b). The first featured visited was a large depression with an elliptical outline with two components (18/1A, 18/1B). Feature 1 is located to the northwest of al-Rumayl, close to Features 18/2, 18/3 and 18/4 (Fig. 14.1).

Feature 18/2 (Fig. 14.16a–b; = C30 in the 1997 survey) faces NNW and consists of a two-room tomb reused in modern times as a storeroom. It is carved out of the bedrock south of Features 18/1 and 18/3. The entrance (1.70 m in height, 0.80 m wide and 0.90 m in depth) is reinforced with a boulder-and-chink doorway capped by a limestone lintel (ca. 1.00 m long and 0.21 m thick). In front of the doorway was a small plaza framed by walls on either side. The bedrock ceiling of the outer room (8.50 m in length, 4.80 m in width and 2.30 m in height) was soot-stained, evidence that the tomb had been used at one point as a shelter. Secondary walls in the main room were of hewn limestone blocks and plaster and framed the entrance into an inner room. The entrance formed by these walls had a sloping upper frame/lintel and it was in direct line with the main entrance. Because this room was filled with plastic bags of fodder, its dimensions could not be determined.



a



b

Figure 14.15. a) Feature 18/1A; b) Feature 18/1B, collapsed cisterns

Feature 18/3 ([Fig. 14.17a](#)) is a stone-lined opening with elliptical shape, suitable for use of a cave tomb. When located, it was filled with plastic and its depth could not be determined. The width is

approximately 1.10 m.

Feature 18/4 ([Fig. 14.17b](#)) is a cistern to the east of Feature 18/1. Due to the overgrowth of vegetation, accurate measurements of the opening were not determined; the diameter of the flanking stones is *ca.* 1.00 m.

Feature 18/5 ([Fig. 14.18a](#)) is a small stone-lined circular depression less than 1.00 m in diameter to the southeast of Feature 18/4. Such openings are typical of stone-cut cisterns in central Jordan.



a



b

Figure 14.16. a) Feature 18/2, rock-cut tomb with built entrance; b) entrance to interior room

Feature 18/6 (Fig. 14.18b), located to the east of Feature 18/5, is a stone-lined elliptical depression more than 1.00 m in size. This

could be either a collapsed cistern or a tomb, comparable to Tomb WT-200 (Chadwick 2016: fig. 15), which was marked by a large depression.

Feature 18/7 (Fig. 14.19a–c) is a large area (5+ m in size) encircled by stones, east of Feature 18/6. A wall line appears to bisect the feature, suggesting the remains of a structure. On the left of the overview (Fig. 14.19a) is a circular depression with a stone-lined mouth (Fig. 14.19c), which suggests the presence of a cistern. This depression is *ca.* 1.2 m in diameter and is filled with collapsed stone and vegetation. In its present condition the elements of this feature are uncertain. To the west is a large modern water tank and a boundary fence.

Feature 18/8 (Fig. 14.20a) is at the far western edge of the al-Rumayl survey area and consists of an oval opening in the bedrock with the appearance of a natural cave or tomb entrance. This feature opens to the northwest. In 2003, the opening was blocked with metal sheeting.



a



b

Figure 14.17. a) Feature 18/3; b) Feature 18/4

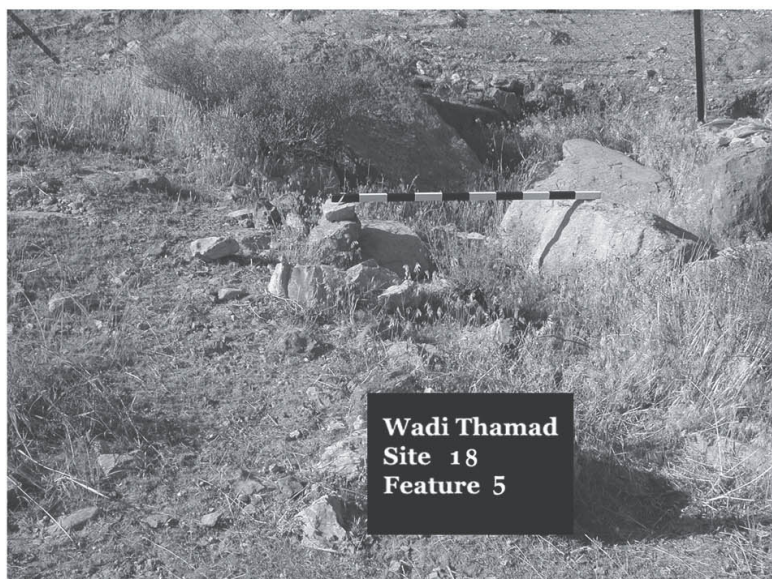
Feature 18/9 (Fig. 14.20b) is another very large feature with an opening in the bedrock that faces northeast. It is one of three

features (18/9, 18/10, 18/11) to the southwest of Feature 18/2. In front of the opening, there is a slight depression filled with vegetation.

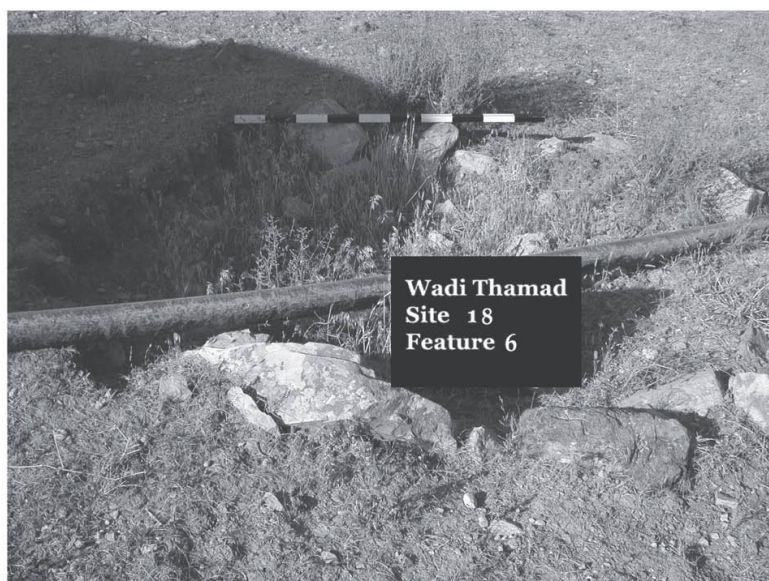
Feature 18/10 (Fig. 14.20c) is to the southeast of Feature 18/9. Its outline and characteristic were difficult to identify, although sections of bedrock were exposed at the surface.

Feature 18/11 (Fig. 14.20d) is a depression in front of a bedrock ledge that opens to the north.

Feature 18/12 (Fig. 14.20e, f) is a long oval depression running north–south (12A, 12B). This feature is located to the east of the cluster with Features 18/9–18/11 and close to Features 18/13 and 18/19.



a



b

Figure 14.18. a) Feature 18/5; b) Feature 18/6

Feature 18/13 (Fig. 14.21a) was a large circular depression with a stone-lined opening on one side. It could have been a cistern or cave opening that collapsed.

Feature 18/14 (Fig. 14.21b), a probable cave, consists of a horizontal opening in the bedrock with a southeastern exposure.

Feature 18/15 (Fig. 14.21c) is an unspecified depression located between 18/14 and 18/16.

Feature 18/16 (Fig. 14.21d) is a large depression with a clear wall line running north–south. The date of such a feature is unknown and it may be a modern field wall.

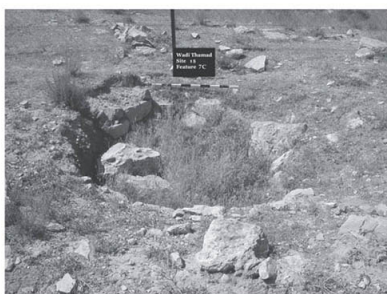
Feature 18/17 (Fig. 14.21e) is a cluster of stones surrounding a small depression in an area of exposed bedrock. It was located close to the west side of the mound of al-Rumayl, east of Feature 18/16.



a



b



c

Figure 14.19. a) Feature 18/7A, wall line near modern water tank; b) Feature 18/7B; c) Feature 18/7C, collapsed cistern

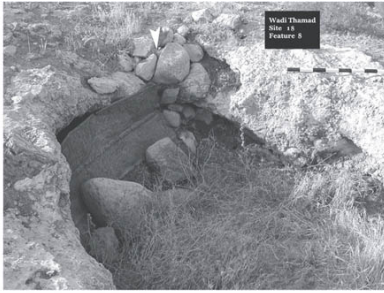
Feature 18/18 (Fig. 14.22a–d) is a multi-chambered tomb with a stone lined entrance (Feature 32 in the 1997 Survey). The entrance is framed on either side with boulder-and-chink walls running northwest. The interior consists of several chambers separated from one another by piers of natural stone and built walls.

Feature 18/19 (Fig. 14.22e) is a stone-lined collapsed feature, possibly a cistern, with evidence of recent burning.

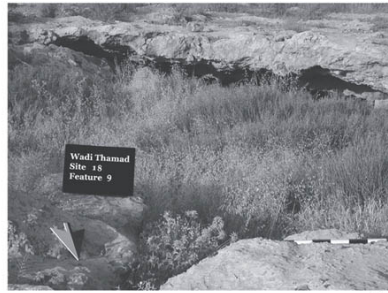
Feature 18/20 (Fig. 14.22f) was certainly a cistern mouth cut into the bedrock with a channel leading into the mouth from the west. Here too there was evidence of burning.

Feature 18/21 (Fig. 14.23a) is a depression that represents the collapse of the roof of either a cave or tomb. Running up to the edge of the depression from the north was a line of stones.

Feature 18/22 (Fig. 14.23b) consists of a heavy concentration of collapsed stones and wall segments, suggesting an underground feature, although it may not have been designed or utilized as such.



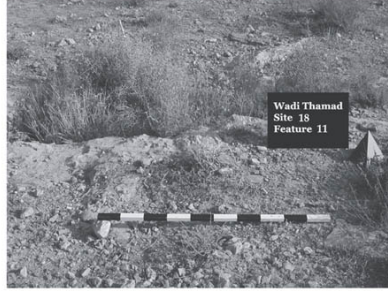
a



b



c



d



e



f

Figure 14.20. a) Feature 18/8; b) Feature 18/9; c) Feature 18/10; d) Feature 18/11; e) Feature 18/12A; f) Feature 18/12B



a



b



c



d



e

Figure 14.21. a) Feature 18/13; b) Feature 18/14; c) Feature 18/15; d) Feature 18/16; e) Feature 18/17

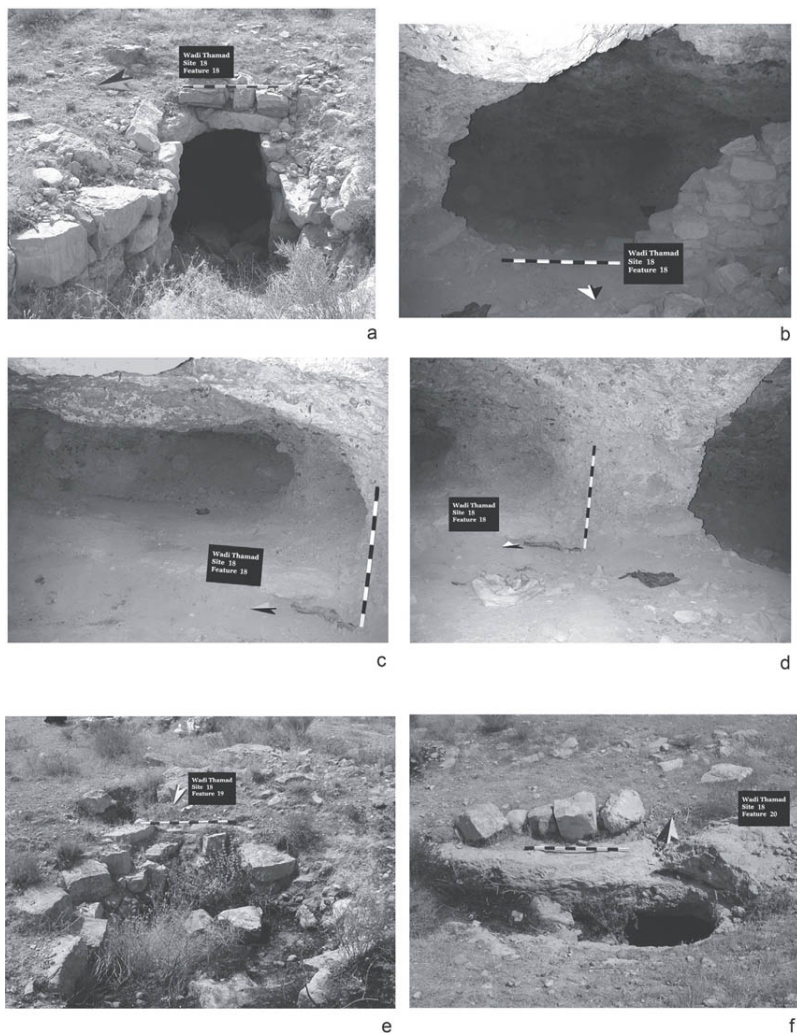


Figure 14.22. Feature 18/18. a) stone-built tomb entrance; b) interior of entrance; c) chamber to the north of the central pillar; d) central pillar with a chamber on either side; e) Feature 18/19, collapsed entrance; f) Feature 18/20, bedrock cistern mouth

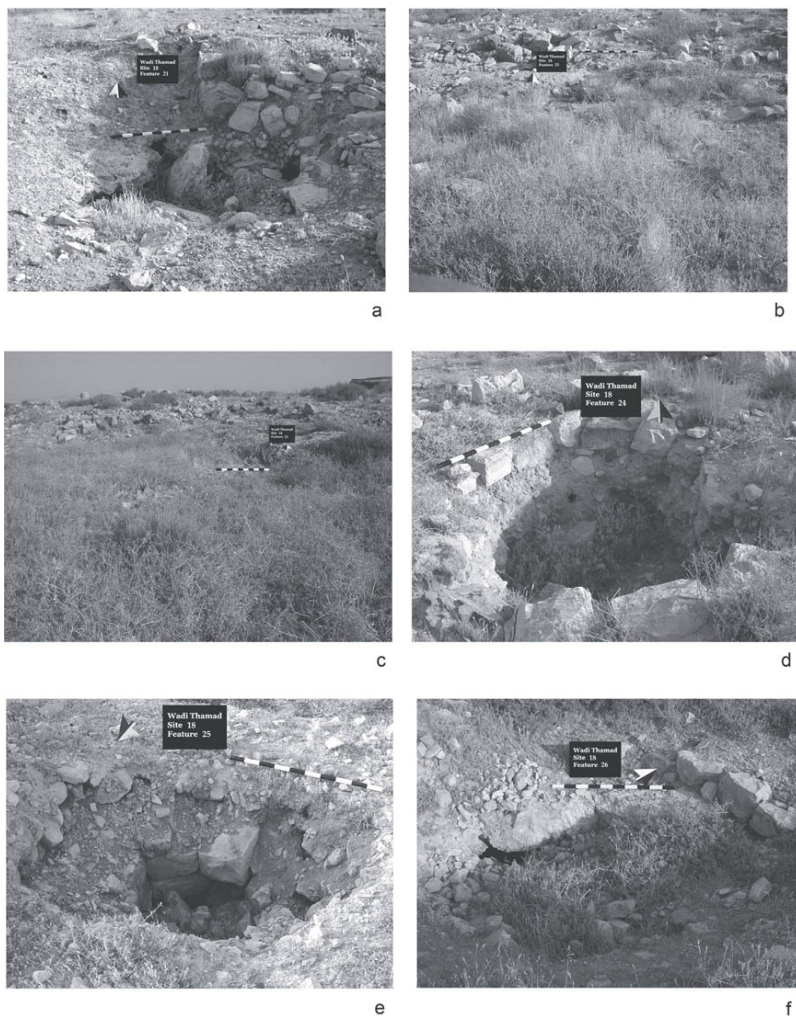


Figure 14.23. a) Feature 18/21, collapsed roof; b) Feature 18/22; c) Feature 18/23; d) Feature 18/24; e) Feature 18/25, cistern neck; f) Feature 18/26, cave

Feature 18/23 (Fig. 14.23c) is a poorly defined depression with an opening facing to the southwest.

Feature 18/24 (Fig. 14.23d) is a semicircular depression surrounded by stones above the underlying dirt sides, possibly the opening to a water resource.

Feature 18/25 (Fig. 14.23e) is a rectangular opening above a cistern neck, which was lined with hewn stones.

Feature 18/26 (Fig. 14.23f) is a cave opening south of a well-formed line of stones.

Feature 18/27 (Fig. 14.24a) is an opening in the bedrock, oval in shape that was probably the mouth of a bell-shaped cistern.

Feature 18/28 (Fig. 14.24b) does not appear to be a depression, but rather a burial mound surrounded by large stones in a circle. This formation is similar to the graves found at Site WT-61 (UTMN 3498984, UTME 77775), which yielded a few tiny beads, a sarcophagus with Nabataean stone cutter's marks and Thamudic inscriptions (Daviau and Foley 2007:360, n. 7).

Feature 18/29 (Fig. 14.24c) is the stone-filled opening of a cistern.

Feature 18/30 (Fig. 14.24d) is another stone circle, but in this case there is a shallow depression in the middle.

Feature 18/31 (Fig. 14.24e) is a small shallow depression without clear indication of its function.

Feature 18/32 (Fig. 14.24f) is oval in shape and appears to be a cave opening.

Feature 18/33 (Fig. 14.25a) is a natural bedrock arch opening into a cave and framed on one side with a large boulder, similar to other better preserved tomb openings.

Feature 18/34A (Fig. 14.25b) has the form of a stone-line cist grave, similar to those seen at Mudayna Thamad and dated to the Ottoman period (Daviau 2014c:39).

Feature 18/34B (Fig. 14.25c) consists of the overhang of a large cave with large sections of collapsed roof sections.

Feature 18/34C ([Fig. 14.25d](#)) is a large shallow depression of uncertain character.

Feature 18/35 ([Fig. 14.25e](#)) is a large shallow depression marked here and there by stones.

Feature 18/36 ([Fig. 14.25f](#)) consists of an elongated depressions opposite a bedrock outcrop.

Feature 18/37 ([Fig. 14.26a](#)) is an arched cave opening in the bedrock facing north.

Feature 18/38 ([Fig. 14.26b](#)) is a small circular depression, possibly the filled mouth of a cistern.

Feature 18/39 ([Fig. 14.26c](#)) is a shallow circular depression, the result of unknown activity in the area.

Feature 18/40 ([Fig. 14.26d](#)) is comprised of a row of large stone blocks in a row heading toward the opening of cave.

Feature 18/41 ([Fig. 14.26e](#)) is a long natural bedrock wall line running east–west.

Feature 18/42 ([Fig. 14.26f](#)) appears to be the longest bedrock cave outcrop.

Observations

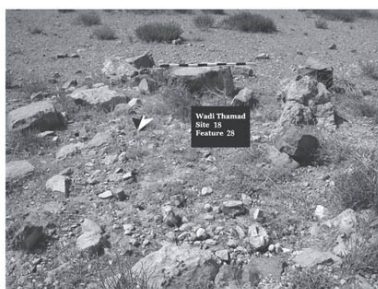
Since correlation between the new data and previous data relevant to WT-18 is incomplete, we are not able to present a table of feature equivalences, or a definitive detailed analysis. Nevertheless, several observations and tentative explanations are offered here. Utilizing only the latest data with respect to features ([Charts 14.1, 14.2](#)), it should be noted that in the immediate environs of WT-18 and WT-13, there are a total of 64 features. Among these, there are four confirmed stone-lined storage pits, as well as nine other possible storage pits and five tombs. Although

there are similar formations in the Thamad Graben, there is no other area of a similar size in the Wadi ath-Thamad region that approaches this number of caves, cisterns and storage pits, including the major site of Mudayna Thamad (WT-1). Iron Age tombs are also rare, with the exception of Dhībân and WT-200 near Mudayna Thamad. The pottery at WT-18 and WT-13 is predominantly Iron II, suggesting that both sites were occupied during the same cultural phase. If one assumes that a significant proportion of the features were in use at the same time, when WT-18 and WT-13 were occupied, then we must account for this concentration of storage features.

One obvious factor is the nature of the bedrock that allows for the formation of natural caverns and the construction of cisterns and tombs. A second factor is the proximity of the sites to agriculturally productive land. WT-13 is located close to the beginning of the Wadi Rumayl, where the course of the flow is constricted by hard limestone formations resulting in a marked down cutting process, narrow valley bottom, and very steep slopes. Site WT-18, located only several hundred meters to the north, overlooks the confluence of the Wadis Zaċfaran and Thamad. There is a broad flood plain where the wadis meet. Moreover, both wadis course through comparatively broad alluvial bottomland prior to their flowing together. The area is prime agricultural and pastoral land (Fig. 14.11b). The potential productivity of the Wadis Zaċfaran and Thamad flood plains may account for a number of the storage areas and cisterns converted to storage facilities. But given the proximity to the wadis, it does not account for the number of cisterns themselves. Water was readily available. Moreover, cisterns located externally to Rujm al-Rumayl would hardly provide security of provisions during a siege.



a



b



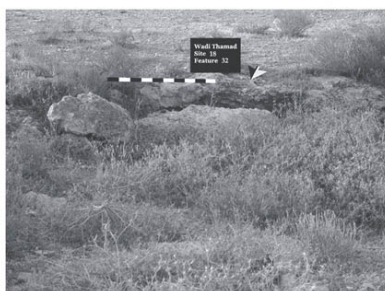
c



d

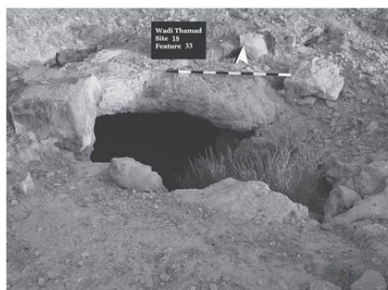


e



f

Figure 14.24. a) Feature 18/27, cistern; b) Feature 18/28, burial(?) circle; c) Feature 18/29, collapsed cistern; d) Feature 18/30; e) Feature 18/31; f) Feature 18/32, cave opening



a



b



c



d



e



f

Figure 14.25. a) Feature 18/33, probable cave tomb; b) Feature 18/34A, stone-lined cist grave; c) Feature 18/34B; d) Feature 18/34C; e) Feature 18/35; f) Feature 18/36



a



b



c



d



e



f

Figure 14.26. a) Feature 18/37, cave opening; b) Feature 18/38, shallow depression; c) Feature 18/39, shallow depression, d) Feature 18/40, wall line; e) Feature 18/41, wall line; f) Feature 18/42, cave

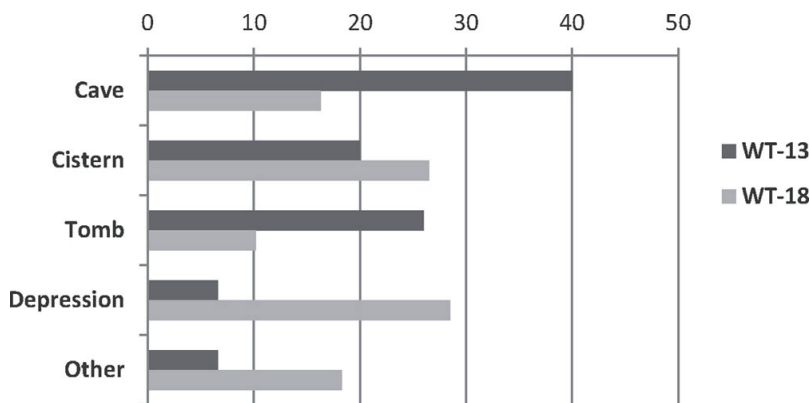


Chart 14.1. Number of features of each type

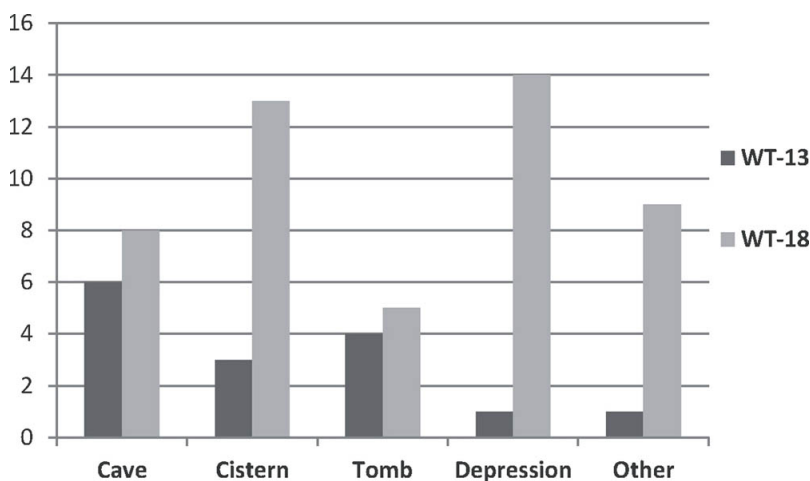


Chart 14.2. Percentage of each feature type within its group

There are two other explanations for the water and dry goods storage features that should be considered. The first is that WT-18, together with the adjacent site of WT-13, served as a control and provisioning point along an Iron Age highway (see [Chapter 15](#), below). From both north and south the slopes down to the Wadis Zaċċafaran and Thamad are quite steep. The descent just to the west of the point where the wadis meet, however, is longer and thus more gradual.

The modern road descends from Zaċċafaran along the eastern

face of the escarpment above the Wadi Zaʿfaran bottomland, crosses the alluvial plain at the confluence of the wadis below WT-18. It then ascends the southern edge of the graben passing immediately to the south of WT-18 and north of WT-13. Logically following the topography of the region, it is probable that the modern road lies over the course of more ancient trails. If so, the fortress of al-Rumayl and the shrine at WT-13 were ideally located to serve as control points for traffic proceeding both north and south across the Wadi Rumayl. They also are well placed to provision southbound caravans with food and water for both animals and personnel.

The second option to consider is that a settlement grew up around WT-18. There are a number of well-constructed walls outside the fortress's moat. Some are suggestive of terrace walls, others of large courtyards serving as animal enclosures. Yet others are suggestive of dwellings, similar to the outlying features surrounding Qaṣr Zaʿfaran, although some of these may be more recent (Ferguson 2006: fig. 29). At WT-18 these structures have yet to be mapped in detail, but it is not beyond the range of probability that a number of the storage features were associated with structures defined by these walls. If the walls do attest to a settlement outside the fortress wall, this occupation would account at least in part for a number of external storage features. Moreover, the settlement hypothesis complements the control point and provisioning theory. While individually neither a settlement nor the ability to provide supplies for road traffic might account for the unusual number of features, the combined impact of settlement and provisioning might make the large number of cisterns and storage installations explicable.

Notes

- 1 For a clear and concise description of various perspectives within "landscape archaeology", see Grzymski 2004.
- 2 The presence of early Roman/Nabataean pottery at WT-13 is

probably evidence of visits to the site on occasion, rather than continuous use; there is certainly no architecture that could be attributed to this period.

3 The first survey was conducted by J. A. Dearman in 1996 and 1997. During the second season, eight cistern features were documented. In a follow-up season, carried out in 2001 by C. M. Foley and R. Force, the topographical map of al-Rumayl was plotted. In 2003, C. M. Foley located each feature in the vicinity WT-13 and WT-18 using GPS.

4 A wall line running up to the entrance of 13/9 from the west may have served as a flanking wall to a tomb entrance; such a feature is seen more clearly approaching Features 18/2 and 18/18.

5 For a comparable sequence of uses for both 13/11 and 13/12, see the discussion by Groves and Battenfield in their report on Tall Jawa Cave Feature M13 (Battenfield *et al.* 2016).

6 Glueck's descriptions here and in his more popular study (1970:175–176) are the most complete and served as the basis for the summary in Gaß (2009:255).

7 A preliminary study (unpublished paper, University of Toronto), “Analysis of Form and Fabric of Ceramics from Khirbat al-Hari and Khirbat er Rumeil”, by D. Smith compared a selection of the pottery from al-Rumayl with the forms and wares of the pottery from Rujm al-Hiri that had been collected by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project; both collections are curated at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON, Canada.

8 A total of 87 individual drawings are available in the online archive; see preface.

9 My thanks to J. Ferguson and D. C. Foran for their identification of this ware.

10 Features inside the walled town are not reported in detail in this report.

Sacred landscape in central Jordan

P. M. Michèle Daviau

Introduction

The landscape around WT-13 was not only a geographic reality but also a cultural phenomenon whose meaning changed over time in relation to the function of the site itself. Discussion of such change was well presented by Shanks (2001:293) who understood landscape as a composite which includes topography, “values ... perception and representation”, the experiences of human participants, the artefacts used and discarded by them, as well as their “histories ... dreams, identities, narratives” and memories.

The setting of Shrine Site WT-13, its cultural, economic, and religious features in relation to the town sites and to other religious structures in its vicinity and in the larger central Jordan region, has implications for its functioning as part of a sacred landscape, especially in view of the two distinct phases of use and the divergence between the behaviour patterns from one phase to another.

The Place of WT-13 in Northern Moab

In 1994, Mattingly was not able to add significantly to our knowledge of Moabite religion, beyond what was known as a

result of Glueck's surveys and Dornemann's study of the material culture known prior to 1983. Apart from the Hebrew Scriptures and the Mesha¹ Inscription, there are no literary references to cultic places and practices. Male and female figurines found on the surface at various sites and in tombs are examples of religious paraphernalia but do not illuminate our understanding of cultic behaviour. Only the excavation of figurines in a domestic context at Balua² (Worschech 1995) and of two figurines and a fenestrated stand with serpent relief in Mesha's "palace" at Dhībān were identified as cultic paraphernalia *in situ* (Morton 1989:245–246; figs. 14–16). Routledge (2004:162–168) refined Morton's assessment of Dhībān Building L, comparing it to other public buildings known from the Levant, and demonstrates that it was indeed a public building and not a temple. In 2012, the author (Daviau) was able to compare three structures in northern Moab (Temple 149 at Mudayna Thamad, WT-13, and the temple complex at ³Atarus), along with their religious equipment, to correlates adapted from Colin Renfrew's study (1985) of the temple at Phylakopi. The results showed that each site conformed to the criteria for a cultic site, but each had a unique architectural plan and assemblage of religious artefacts, reflecting social and cultural diversity.

This study and analysis of the ceramic and artefactual remains from WT-13 opens a window on the complex religious life of northern Moab during the Iron Age. The establishment, use, abandonment and reuse of this non-settlement site offers opportunities for investigating two distinct patterns of ritual behaviour. Not only did the rituals practiced at the site vary from one phase to another, but the evidence suggests that the participants who made use of the site were also different in their ethnic, cultural and social organization.

Stratum III

When comparing Stratum III with the correlates designed for this

site (Chapter 2), we see that few apply to the rituals that necessitated the construction and use of cooking installations at WT-13.

1. the area below the bedrock scarp was functionally suitable as a wind break for ovens, but its natural setting or its position in the landscape has no apparent special meaning;
2. only the ovens themselves were installed in this space; there were no other architectural features;
3. the ovens were in position along the west and north scarps, otherwise there were no intentionally designed focal points;
4. there were no cult images among the artefacts;
5. the ovens were monofunctional and not suitable for various kinds of rituals;
- 6–8. the pottery was utilitarian in form and style – apart from two juglets – and none of the finds appear to be votive in nature, nor were there any objects symbolic of a deity;
9. although the ceramic potting traditions are not well understood, it appears that the only “foreign” vessel is a Cypriot Black-on-Red juglet;
10. only one ritual tradition seems to be reflected in the use of the ovens.

The creation and use of a communal cooking area that was not only extra-mural but also at a distance (300 m) from and still in view of the nearest town (ar-Rumayl) suggests an intention to separate the activities carried out at the site from the living area of the inhabitants of that site. Such a separation is very appropriate when engaging in rituals for the dead, especially if that community considered the dead to be impure or untouchable. These ovens could be used for the preparation of food offerings for the dead, who were buried in the tombs surrounding ar-Rumayl, or for a commemorative meal of family members. Ilan (1995:136)

suggests that for western Semites there were three episodes surrounding death when food preparation was appropriate, the pre-burial feast, the provisioning of the dead at the time of burial and the post-burial supplying of nourishment for the spirit of the dead. While he applies these practices to the artefactual remains from Middle Bronze Age tombs at Tel Dan, certain of these practices continued among the inhabitants living in the region.

During the Late Bronze Age, cave tombs and extramural cemeteries were seen as more desirable burial grounds than intramural pit or jar burials, which had been common during earlier periods (Gonen 1992:10). The choice of rock cut burial chambers continued in the Iron Age, as seen in the Jerusalem area in the Silwan tombs (Ussishkin 1993) and in the bench tombs on the grounds of l'École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (Barkay and Kloner 1986). Excavation of tombs in what is considered to have been ancient Ammon and the Land of Madaba yielded a significant number of natural and modified (rock-cut) caves at Amman, Saḥab, Maqabalayn, Madaba, and the Mount Nebo area (Yassine 1999:138–140). Most importantly for our study of burial customs practiced in the area around WT-13 are the tombs at ar-Rumayl ([Chapter 14](#)), those at Dhībān (Tushingham 1972), and Tomb WT-200, immediately west of Mudayna Thamad (Chadwick 2016). Also of relevance are the contemporary tombs at Madaba and Mount Nebo (Piccirillo 1975; Saller 1966).

The practice of preparing and celebrating a funerary meal is less demanding of official personnel than is an act of temple cult (animal sacrifice and burning of incense), which requires strict procedures and a dedicated priesthood on the model of Canaanite religion (Aufrecht 1999:153–154). Residents at ar-Rumayl could remember their dead with a meal prepared by family members, with food offered to the deceased and by a meal eaten by the living.¹ The evidence of large serving vessels in the form of kraters and large bowls suggests group meals. The view that these meals

might relate to funerary practices at WT-13 appears to be in contrast to the situation at Tall al-ʿUmayri, where London (2011:224) sees evidence for feasting in the finds collected in a large house-like structure, but does not see in them any funerary connotation. However, Aramaean art work continued the tradition of showing the dead sitting in front of a table, liberally supplied with food for the feast. Such monuments are said to make their appearance in the late 10th–9th century BC, a time of state formation in the Syro-Hittite realm (Struble and Herrmann 2009:41). It was continued even after Assyrian control reached Zincirli, as seen in the stele of Katumuwa (see [Chapter 3](#)). Feeding the dead was apparently a well-known ritual throughout the Levant, referred to in the Hadad Inscription of Panamuwa I (Lipiński 2000:639; Greenfield 1987:70) and in biblical texts (Suriano 2014:397–399); the latter suggest that it was not restricted to royal ancestors. Indeed, Katamuwa was not a king and neither were the innumerable nobles and high status Egyptians who appear in relief seated before tables heavily laden with food presented by their descendants. It is not only likely but probable that similar funerary meal rituals were known in northern Moab during the 10th–8th centuries BC.

Decommissioning of cultic sites was also practiced throughout the Levant. The stela of Katumuwa at Zincirli was buried, and thus protected, when buildings were remodelled and floor levels were raised, effectively putting the ritual area out of use (Struble and Herrmann 2009:35). Zertal (1986–1987:123–124) interpreted the stone layers covering the Stratum IB structures and courtyard at Mount Ebal as a deliberate attempt to bury the ritual site. This tradition was practiced for millennia in the Near East as summarized by (Ward 2014) and by Ussishkin (1970), who documented the Syro-Hittite ritual of burying monumental statues and gate-lions at Alalakh, Hazor, Arslantepe and Zincirli. Here too the action was deliberate and reverential. Both Hawkins (2012:53–54) and Ziffer and Kletter (2007:8) see the burial of objects in a

favissa and the filling and covering of cultic structures as a continuation of this practice. In Stratum IA at el-Burnat (Mount Ebal), stone features were constructed to support the uppermost stone fill that covered Area A and sections of Area B. While this is not seen in Stratum IIIA at WT-13, the shape of the natural depression that housed the ovens and the deliberate ash fill were sufficient to terminate their use.

Stratum II

The initial use phase of the site in Stratum II saw the remodelling of the site and the establishment of a temenos for ritual behaviour that involved the extensive use of iconography, consisting primarily of anthropomorphic figures. Based on the attached features of certain figurines (drums), we can suppose that the placing of these gifts at the shrine was accompanied by prayers and music. Thus, the comparison of these features with Renfrew's correlates shows a stark contrast between the rituals in Stratum III and the cult of Stratum II.

1. The bedrock to the west of the scarp was situated in a prominent location overlooking the wadi toward the west;
2. perimeter walls were built to form a temenos;
3. stone monoliths were put in place to channel attention to the eastern benches and the western wall;
4. naked female figurines, a stone male head and an enthroned figure may have represented deities;
5. other stone monoliths may have served as benches for the positioning of gifts;
6. votive gifts included high status objects and exotic natural materials;
7. miniature and small vessels, including bowls and cooking pots, were part of the cultic equipment;
8. a ceramic plaque, small bowl and jug with painted symbols may have special significance;

9. foreign trade items and Egyptian amulets and scarabs reflect the inclusion of various religious traditions;
10. the anthropomorphic figurines and statues representing worshipers and functionaries reflect the cultural diversity of Iron Age peoples in the southern Levant.

The material representing the range of cultic actions performed at WT-13 distinguishes it from town and tomb sites in the land of Madaba, central Moab and Ammon. This is seen in the following features:

1. full size imitation Cypro-Phoenician juglets were present in the tombs of Mount Nebo and Dhībân as well as in the town of Mudayna Thamad, but not at WT-13,² where miniature imported and imitation juglets were prevalent;
2. tripod cups were present in the tomb assemblages at Mount Nebo, Madaba and Dhībân and in the town site of Tall Jawa, and in large numbers at Site WT-13, but not in the temple (B149) at Mudayna Thamad;
3. miniature vessels were present at Tall Jawa and at Site WT-13, but not at Mudayna Thamad;
4. standard size black juglets found in small numbers at Tall Jawa, Dhībân, Mount Nebo tombs and throughout Palestine are fewer at WT-13, where miniature gray and black slipped and burnished juglets are dominant;
5. numerous stone altars were present at Mudayna Thamad, but not at Tall Jawa and there was only one example at WT-13;
6. there was no evidence for animal sacrifice at WT-13, whereas the platforms at ʿAtarus may have served this purpose;
7. ceramic statues were plentiful at WT-13, but occur only in small numbers at Tall Madaba and at the Ammonite sites of Tall Damiyah (Jordan Valley), Tall Jawa and Tall al-ʿUmayri, as well as in northern Jordan and Syria.

Mazar (2015:30) notes the unique status of the open air sanctuary at Tel Rehov, when he says “the heterogeneity of cult places in Iron Age Israel precludes any formal typological classification.” The same is true of WT-13, which has only a single architectural parallel in Transjordan at Tall Damiyah,³ although some of the finds from WT-13 fall into known types with a wider distribution in the southern Levant. The large number of ritual objects certainly does not compare with the Courtyard building at Tall al-Mazar, identified as an open air sanctuary on the basis of the presence of two chalices and a cylindrical stand (Yassine 1984: pl. 7E, F; Yassine and van der Steen 2012: fig. 40:I, K, M).⁴

The layout of WT-13, the Egyptian-style amulets, and the Phoenician style pillar figurines have their closest parallel in the level 3 shrine of Astarte at Sarepta (Pritchard 1978: figs. 125, 126). The finds from this small one-room sanctuary include an amulet of Horus the Child along with amulets of other Egyptian deities, 34 figurines, including a pillar figurine playing a drum and another with hands at the waist holding a dove (Pritchard 1978: figs. 134, 137; 1988:48–49, 52). Here too, a large number of “local” style figurines are present, but high-status votive gifts of gold and silver are lacking; only two fragments of carved ivory were recovered. At the later, Persian period Phoenician sanctuary at Mizpe Yammim, more than 100 small juglets and bottles are considered to have been offerings to the deity (Berlin and Frankel 2012: 36; figs. 18–27), comparable as a type of offering to the assemblage of miniature juglets at WT-13. Apart from the ceramic assemblage of bowls and cooking pots at WT-13, which is predominantly local, the cultic repertoire is best seen in comparison with sites such as Tall Damiyah, Horvat Qitmit and En Ḥaṣeva, the principal sites in the southern Levant that produced anthropomorphic statues, an artefact type that was rarely represented at Iron Age town sites (see [Charts 5.2–5.4](#); [Table 5C](#)).

When we compare the location, architectural features and

finds at WT-13, Tall Damiyah, Ḥorvat Qiṭmit and 𐤊𐤍 𐤇𐤃𐤁𐤁, it is clear that each site was unique. WT-13 and Tall Damiyah were each located on a small mound flanked on one or two sides with a steep slope, and strategically placed overlooking an important waterway. Apart from WT-13, only Tall Damiyah has a singular rectangular roofed room, with a platform in the northeast corner and another against the west wall. This building measures 10.6 m east–west and 4.2 m north–south, somewhat smaller than WT-13, which has an interior space of 13.3 m (E–W) × 6.4 m (N–S) (Petit 2016:22; fig. 5). One apparent difference between these two sites is the location of the principal entrance; at Tall Damiyah, it was located in the south wall of the sanctuary facing a domestic structure while at WT-13 it was in the north wall, looking toward al-Rumayl. In both cases, however, topography may have been the deciding factor, since both mounds slope steeply along the side opposite the entrance. Within both buildings there is a platform in the northeast corner and a focal point adjacent to the west wall. In terms of votive offerings, both sites have pillar figurines and ceramic statues (Petit 2016: figs. 12, 17, 18, 20), although some two-headed horse-and-rider figurines at Tall Damiyah reflect an Ammonite tradition that is not found at WT-13 (Petit 2016: figs. 9–10).⁵

Ḥorvat Qiṭmit, with two multi-room structures and several outdoor installations, is considerably larger than both WT-13 and Tall Damiyah, although there were clear focal points for ritual activities and benches for offerings at all three sites. Because the finds at 𐤊𐤍 𐤇𐤃𐤁𐤁 were in a *favissa*, information on this aspect is lacking, although the so-called *maṣṣevot* may have been bench stones that had supported the statues and ceramic stands before they were all interred.⁶ At all four sites there was abundant iconographic representation and repeated symbolism, especially among the anthropomorphic figures. Anthropomorphic figurines were present at three sites, although the number at WT-13 exceeds that from Ḥorvat Qiṭmit and Tall Damiyah. While all sites yielded

statues, the smallest numbers were recovered at Tall Damiyah⁷ and Են Դափեա. There were cultic stands and zoomorphic figurines at both Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ and Են Դափեա, but not at WT-13 (apart from a few fragments). Various styles of architectural model were present at WT-13 but not at Tall Damiyah or Են Դափեա. Presentation of food or other offerings is reflected in the presence of miniature and high status vessels at WT-13 and Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ, while at Են Դափեա the denticulated and decorated bowls may have served that purpose. Plain ware bowls, kraters and cooking pots at WT-13 and Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ are evidence of food preparation and consumption, and may reflect one of the roles of women in the cult (Mierse 2012:235). The distribution of structures at Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ and the focal points on both the east and west sides of the temenos at WT-13 indicate the movement of officials or worshippers at these sites. Less apparent is the evidence for animal sacrifice; only Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ provides compelling evidence, although the numbers of identifiable bones is small (133 from Complex A, 176 from Complex B and 4 from extramural areas (Horowitz and Raphael 1995: table 8.1). While Horowitz and Raphael (1995:297) believe that the faunal remains denote food preparation in Complex B, they consider the burnt bones found in Complex A to be the result of burnt offerings. Movement within the sanctuary and between structures is apparent in view of the large number of objects, ceramic and stone figurines and statues, miniature vessels, eating and serving vessels and ceramic stands. The presentation of these objects and their installation on the benches involve entrance and movement in and around the focal points within the structures preserved.

Table 15A. Features and equipment at WT-13, Tall Damiyah, Դորվաթ Ղիթմիտ and Են Դափեա¹

<i>Features</i>	<i>WT-13</i>	<i>Tall Damiyah</i>	<i>Horvat Qitmit</i>	<i>‘En Ḥaseva</i>
Structure	Single	Single	Multiple	Favisa
Focal points	Multiple	Multiple	Multiple – offering areas	Niche?
Installations	Benches	Platforms	Benches and platforms	Bench?
Iconographic representation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Repeated symbolism	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Votive offerings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Use of symbols	Figurines, Amulets	Figurines	Figurines	Figurines
Presentation of votives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abstract representation				<i>maṣṣevor?</i>
Presentation of food offerings	Miniature Bowls	Stands	Bowls	Stands
Food presentation/ consumption	Large bowls, kraters, cookpots	Bowls, kraters, storejars	Pottery	Decorated bowls
Use of movement	Statues/figurines, miniature juglets, special vessels	Statues and figurines	Statues, figurines, multiple activity areas	Statues, miniature altars, special vessels
Animal slaughter	No	No	Possible	Unknown

¹Adapted from Daviau 2012: Table 4.

In the case of WT-13, this movement may come from the settlement at al-Rumayl and Mudayna Thamad and from visitors to the site mounting the hill to the shrine. Whether there was a functionary responsible for the presentation and installation of the votive gifts and the organization of food offerings and/or ritual meals on behalf of the worshipers remains uncertain.

Geographical setting of a cultic site

The position of WT-13 on a hilltop overlooking a large bend in the wadi system is an important feature. However, the concept of a “high place” or *bamah* (Nakhai 1994) is not especially helpful for understanding the nature of the shrine, since all the Iron Age sites in the region are located on hilltops or promontories. The larger setting of the Stratum II shrine in the geographical landscape is principally marked by the presence of al-Rumayl and secondarily by the regional road network. While the Roman road network was marked by milestones to indicate its trajectory, the earlier Iron Age roads are unmarked. The so called “King’s Highway” (Num 20: 17) was a north–south route from Hesban to Madaba, on to Libb, Khirbat Qurayyāt 𐤀𐤊𐤁𐤏𐤁, Dhībân, probably 𐤀𐤊𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤏𐤁 and then across the Wādi Mujib. Slightly further east there may have

been another road from Madaba via Nitl (on the modern road) to al-Rumayl, Umm al-Rasas, Khirbat al-Lahun and then down into the Wādi Mujib (Dearman 1997:206).⁸ This means that the eastern route went past WT-13 putting it on a north–south trajectory between Rabbath-Ammon and Damascus to the north, and Balu'a and Edom to the south, a route for shipment of the shells, coral, imported Cypriot juglets and an Assyrian glazed bottle that reached the site. Its position south of Madaba and north of Dhībān is also significant. The ceramic assemblage of Madaba reflects various styles and is more diversified than that of either Tall Jawa or Tall al-Umayri, with their strong Ammonite potting tradition that is reflected at WT-13 in only a small number of smudged krater sherds and the black slipped and burnished juglets. This is to suggest that Madaba may have been a source for some of the ceramic material at WT-13, although the majority of the pottery compares well with that at al-Rumayl and Mudayna Thamad, while other vessels came from further afield.

Along with the movement of goods, we can also imagine the movement of people, who may have stopped at the shrine and whose religious traditions are reflected in the figurines and statues, and in the tripod cups and miniature juglets, which were probably used for aromatic oils. The fact that there is no evidence for animal sacrifice or the burning of resinous incense may also have been a reflection of diverse ethnic and religious identities, including groups from the Edomite and Moabite confederations (Bienkowski 2009), Phoenicia, and others. These worshipers contributed Egyptian and Assyrian goods, but cannot be easily recognized at the current stage of our research concerning the peoples who traversed the northern Moabite plateau. This same mixture of diverse cultural influences is seen during Iron Age II in the northern Jordan Valley at the site of Tall Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2013:514) as well as in Amman in the tomb of Adoni Nur, where Tufnell identified Assyrian, Phoenician and Palestinian pottery types along with local wares (Harding 1953:66–68). At the

same time, there are several groups not identified, especially the nomadic tribes usually indicated by the presence of Negebite pottery, as seen at Kadesh Barnea (Tell el-Qudeirat; Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007), Tall al-Khalayfa (Pratico 1993) and at several sites in the Negev and in the Petra region.⁹ If Arab tribes facilitated trade from Arabia to Gaza (Bienkowski and van der Steen 2001), it is not apparent at WT-13, which was located on a secondary north–south route. Secondly, the painted pottery, the denticulated motif, and grooved rim jars in Edomite style found at Ḥorvat Qitmit (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995:254–255) are not represented.

At this stage, there are still many unanswered questions. Were the deities worshipped local gods and goddesses, or were they related to the peoples of the “lands”, such as Madaba, Dibon and  Atarus (Dion and Daviau 2010:212), or to the Ammonites, Phoenicians, Egyptians or Assyrians? Does the fact that there were both male and female figures reflect the members of the worshipping community? To what extent do the artefacts and the ceramic assemblage reflect parts of a single tradition or, conversely, a number of religious traditions? Were there caretakers of the shrine living at al-Rumayl? And finally, what caused WT-13 to go out of use? These questions remain, due in part to the lack of excavation at major Iron Age sites in the region, such as al-Rumayl, Qaṣr Za¹⁰faran II, Libb, Rujm at-Hiri, Khirbat al-Jumayl, Khirbat Qurayyāt Alayan¹⁰ and Iron Age Umm al-Rasas, and to the lack of textual and inscribed material. Only one incised juglet was present in the ceramic corpus at WT-13 in contrast to Mudayna Thamad, where one juglet and three sherds were inscribed, one ostrakon was written in ink, two limestone objects (an incense altar and a limestone slab) carried incised texts and three scale weight were inscribed and one carried an Egyptian numeral, as did a faience object.¹¹ Only one sherd retained a partial personal name with Kemosh as the most likely theophoric element (MT 131; Daviau 1997:227), a clear sign of Moabite

identity on seals and inscriptions (Jang 2009:48).

Given the multicultural affinities of the finds, and especially the similarities and differences with Ḥorvat Qitmit and ʿEn Ḥaṣeva, we cannot assume that the cult at WT-13 was standard Moabite or Edomite religious practice. If we compare recent attempts to explain the social interactions that resulted in the construction and use of Ḥorvat Qitmit and ʿEn Ḥaṣeva by pastoral nomads (with connections to Edom; Bienkowski and Sedmen 2001:322), who may have been responsible for some of the trade going through southern Judah in the 7th century BC (Finkelstein 1992:162), we see that the finds at WT-13 suggest a different explanation. The large number of well-known Phoenician and Levantine type figurines, amulets and scarabs, miniature bowls and juglets, tripod cups, as well as Cypriot and Assyrian imports in the repertoire, points to travel by folk of varied origin, as well as possible down the line trade under Assyrian hegemony. Thus, extensive exploration and excavation in the immediate region, especially of the towns and forts visible on the surrounding hills, is still needed to better understand the rich repertoire of finds and the cult practices carried out in the temenos phase at WT-13.

Notes

¹ See Jer 16: 7-8, Ez 24: 17.

² The pottery at ʿAtarus has not yet been published.

³ This is in contrast to the nearly 100 open court sanctuaries in the Negev and Sinai, where many were similar in shape (Avner 1984). Avner sees these structures as part of a continuing tradition from the fifth millennium to the Byzantine period.

⁴ This courtyard structure is framed on the north by a row of casemate rooms filled with storage and food preparation vessels. A second room with ovens points to food preparation, while the ash layers in the courtyard yielded sherds and animal bones. It would be valuable to consider this repertoire against Renfrew's correlates to see whether the finds are sufficient for identification as a cultic

structure.

5 Only one tripod cup and a storejar from the sanctuary and a small sample of pottery from outside have been published to date (July 2016). It will be interesting to see with the full publication of material from Stratum VII whether Tall Damiyah also has affinities with the Astarte Shrine at Sarepta.

6 For the problem of correctly identifying *mašševot*, see the discussion by Bloch-Smith (2006).

7 Future excavations may change this assessment.

8 Evidence for an east–west road is ephemeral at present.

9 For a list of these small fortress sites, see Pratico (1993:36).

10 Lipiński (2006:329–330) identifies this site with the Levitical city of Qedemot, which he understands as a scribal error for *Qrywt*, mentioned in the Mesha  Inscription.

11 For inscribed objects, see Daviau and Dion 2002a; 2002b; Dion and Daviau 2000; Daviau and Klassen 2014.

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